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Mofaz named deputy chief of staff

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

OC Planning Branch Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz has been named deputy chief of General Staff in place of Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i. The decision was made yesterday by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

The IDF Spokesman said the decision was made in light of the expected rota-

tions to be made in the General Staff in the near future. Vilna'i, 53, is the preferred candidate to replace Shahak when his term expires in January. Mofaz is to take over soon from Vilna'i, who is to take a study leave from the IDF.

It is still not clear whether Shahak plans to ask for the traditional one-year extension. But the appointment of Mofaz, a former OC Southern Command, to the post opens the competition.

Mofaz, 49, was born in Iran and immigrated here in 1957. In 1966 he was inducted into the IDF, and joined the Paratroop Brigade, where, like Vilna'i, he held a variety of command posts, including that of the reconnaissance unit and the entire brigade. During the Six Day War, Mofaz fought near Rafiah. He participated in the Entebbe operation in 1976.

In 1988, Mofaz was promoted to brigadier-general and commanded an

armored division; in August 1993 he was promoted to major-general and appointed as OC Judea and Samaria. He also served as OC Southern Command. He has bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration.

There are 20 major-generals in the IDF. But the expected retirement of a number of senior officers, including OC Northern Command Amiram Levine and OC Home Front Command Shmuel Arad, will leave

Mofaz and OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan as the most senior members of the General Staff.

The decision to replace the deputy chief of staff now has broken a decade-old tradition in the IDF in which the deputy commander served the entire four years in parallel with the chief of staff. Both Ehud Barak and Shahak served four years as deputy chiefs of general staff. Prior to this, deputy chiefs of staff served for two years.



Shaul Mofaz, named new deputy chief of staff. (Ariel Jerolimski)

Ex-navy chief suspected of bribery

By RAINE MARCUS

In what has been described as potentially one of the biggest corruption cases in IDF history, police are investigating allegations that former OC Navy Adm. (res.) Micha Ram accepted millions of dollars in bribes from an unnamed American company. In exchange, he allegedly advised the company on how to sell its goods to the navy. National Fraud Squad detectives questioned Ram for more than eight hours yesterday before releasing him on bail.

The US firm allegedly paid him to buy equipment from it for the navy, sources said.

The inquiry is being conducted together with the Military Police and the Defense Ministry, and is a result of past investigations pertaining to alleged bribes and breach of trust offenses by senior naval and military personnel involving the awarding of contracts to foreign companies for equipment, including helicopters.

The FBI also is said to be involved in the investigation. Ram retired from the navy in 1992, after 32 years of service in the IDF.



Micha Ram

Talks to resume 'within days'

By JAY BUSHINSKY, LIAT COLLINS and HELLE KUTTNER

The Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, which came to a standstill four months ago, were brought back to life yesterday when Foreign Minister David Levy and Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath announced the immediate resumption of negotiations at the committee level, with a mandate to deal with practical issues.

The nine committees appointed by the two sides' respective negotiating teams will resume their work this week, Levy said after their Jerusalem meeting, and seek to reach mutually acceptable solutions to the Gaza Strip and West Bank, and additional releases of Palestinian prisoners.

Significantly, the two sides decided to do without the mediation of European Union envoy Miguel Moratinos. This may have been Levy's way of signalling the EU that Israel was deeply disturbed by its role in the recent UN General Assembly debate that produced an overwhelming majority in favor of condemning Israel for West Bank settlement activity and Jerusalem's Har Homa housing project.

Alluding to this, Levy said the venue for constructive efforts towards peace is here in this country and between the parties directly concerned.

"Anyone who engages in activity in the international arena will throw a monkey wrench into the peace process," he said. "Peace is not achieved by pressure or sanctions. Anyone who thinks that by generating an anti-Israel resolution he is contributing to the peace process must be told he is causing it harm."

Levy told parliamentary reporters there is no better option than holding direct talks face-to-face with the Palestinians to help the process along. "No outside help can take its place," said.

After his meeting with Shaath, Levy met Moratinos at the Foreign Ministry to discuss Syria and Golan Heights issues. Moratinos is scheduled to visit Damascus today. Sources believe the envoy was asked to present several new Israeli ideas meant to bring the Syrians back to the negotiating table.

One of the main factors in the PA's decision to respond to the

protracted Israeli effort to revive the talks was the assurance it received from Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that the Ras al-Amud housing project will not go ahead for the time being.

Shaath cited "the commitment of Israel's government, mentioned in the past few days, about Ras al-Amud," adding: "We feel that stopping the action there contributes to the confidence being built and creates a better atmosphere for the future."

He stressed Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's pledge "to preempt all acts that would injure or harm Israelis and Palestinians." Levy also quoted Arafat's vow to prevent "violence in all forms" and cited his intention to deal with the problem of Palestinian policemen who allegedly engage in terrorism. He referred specifically to the four policemen arrested by Israel recently.

Netanyahu told coalition MKs yesterday that the decision to build in Jerusalem should be a government decision. "At this time we should be very careful," Netanyahu warned. "The government is committed to the unity of Jerusalem. The direction of decisions should stay in the government's hands and those who do not understand that are burying their heads in the sand."

"I have determined that there will be a comprehensive discus-

sion on our policy on Jerusalem in the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem Affairs and there the discussion will take place in an orderly fashion," he said. "I heard about the [Ras al-Amud building permit] via the media at 11:30 at night," said Netanyahu. "This is not acceptable." (See box.) Levy told reporters the government's policy is not to build in Ras al-Amud at present. "I think our sovereignty over

TV: Netanyahu knew of Ras al-Amud plans

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was informed by Interior Minister Eli Suissa about plans to build in the Ras al-Amud section of Jerusalem two days before it became public, Channel 2 reported last night.

The report contradicts Netanyahu's claim that he had heard about the Jerusalem Municipality's decision to allow construction only near midnight last Thursday from the press.

According to Channel 2, two days before that Suissa raised the matter at a cabinet meeting, but the prime minister chose to ignore it. Netanyahu's spokesman last night reiterated that he knew nothing of the plan till late Thursday.

Suissa responded to the television report by saying, "I raised various problems connected with setting policy in the Interior Ministry, including the situation in Jerusalem and plans for construction that are under way. I also mentioned the building plan for Ras al-Amud."

Jerusalem is the foundation of our policy," he said. "There is a broad national consensus regarding that and one needs to know when to do what. One the one hand, maintaining our sovereignty and on the other being cautious in our diplomatic policy."

"I don't think this is the [right] time. The government acts to preserve its rights on the one hand and a careful policy which allows for planning each step without harming the peace process. If security is harmed, it's a bad thing and cannot be allowed."

In Washington, officials were pleased to learn of the plans to resume talks. "It's a positive step. We're glad to see this happen," a senior official said. "Clearly, the Palestinian Police-security issue held up an agreement. Clearly, this was an issue the Palestinian side hoped to see restored, that the Israeli side hoped to see restored," he said.

See TALKS, Page 2



Foreign Minister David Levy (left) and PA Planning Minister Nabil Shaath shake hands yesterday following their meeting in Jerusalem to discuss ways to restart the peace process. (AP)

Ministry, archeologists demand delay on Ras al-Amud

The Interior Ministry announced yesterday that it had suspended a permit granted for construction of Jewish housing in Ras al-Amud pending an appeal filed against the plan by two Meretz city council members.

"The appeals committee decided the permit cannot be granted until a ruling is made on the appeal," an Interior Ministry spokesman said, adding the appeal would probably be heard on August 5.

The appeal claims the area's infrastructure is insufficient for the new homes and that the building would harm the peace process.

In another development, Israel Antiquities

Authority officials said yesterday that the site of the proposed development is an archeological zone that by law cannot be built on before it is excavated for possible antiquities. Gideon Avni, Jerusalem district supervisor for the authority, said the site facing the Temple Mount is believed to be an extension of the ancient Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives.

"We are sure it will be full of graves," he said. "We speculate that it will be full of ancient burial caves, and we will demand a full excavation."

The requirement for an archeological probe would, at the very least, delay construction, probably for several months. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

WORLDVIEW

Big plans in store for Rockefeller Center

By JOHN HOLUSHA

NEW YORK (New York Times) - It has been just about a year since an investment group led by Tishman Speyer Properties and Goldman Sachs assumed control of the then-bankrupt Rockefeller Center.

In that time, Tishman Speyer, which manages the center, has landed as a tenant Christie's, the noted auction house, has rented over 600,000 square feet of office space and is hatching big plans for upgrading the retail space in the center.

The new owners are also con-

sidering converting one of the 12 buildings in the complex into an upscale hotel and are deciding whether to continue with the current operators of Radio City Music Hall and the Rainbow Room or replace them with someone else.

In addition, they are trying to make the center more of a destination by doing things like holding a Duke Ellington jazz festival on the space used as a skating rink in colder months, shifting the flower show from spring to summer and holding a classic-car competition on Rockefeller Plaza in the fall.

"We want to keep up the stan-

dards of Rockefeller Center, but with a more dynamic pace," said Jerry Speyer, president of Tishman Speyer. "We want to bring the credibility of Rockefeller Center back to where it was 10 years ago." Rockefeller Center, of course, is the Depression-era project of John D. Rockefeller Jr., who built the complex at a time when few other buildings were being erected.

Although some of the structures are, in fact, over 60 years old, current managers say upgrades have kept them competitive with newer buildings.

See ROCKEFELLER, Page 5

First surrogate pregnancy here announced

By JUDY SIEGEL

Two embryos implanted in the uterus of a woman from the North will, if all goes well, become the first babies delivered by a surrogate mother in Israel. The babies are due early next spring.

The in-vitro fertilization, using the ova of the commissioning mother and her husband's sperm, was carried out at Rambam Hospital in Haifa. Although the hospital has an inter-disciplinary surrogacy center, the contract between the surrogate and the commissioning parents was worked out among the three and approved by the Health Ministry committee on surrogacy.

The commissioning parents, who are in their 30s and have been married for a decade, also live in the North. The wife has undergone numerous treatments, including

IVF, and suffered eight miscarriages due to an immunological problem that causes her body to reject the fetuses.

"There was no other way for them to become parents than surrogacy," said Prof. Yosef Itskovitz, director of the hospital's obstetrics and gynecology department. "This pregnancy did not involve any revolutionary techniques, but surrogacy - carried out in accordance with the new Surrogacy Law - will make it possible for many infertile couples to have their own children. This is the first step, although there is a long way to go."

He added that Israel, by having the world's first formal surrogacy law that sets down exact guidelines, can be proud of such a humane advance.

The 30-year-old surrogate receives social and financial sup-

port according to the terms set down by the law. Itim reported that, six months ago, the surrogate had become pregnant with embryos from the couple but that pregnancy failed.

The Rambam team, which includes social workers, psychologists, obstetricians, and fertility experts, is keeping close to the surrogate and the commissioning parents.

According to Itskovitz, the IVF produced a number of embryos, and three of them were implanted in the surrogate after she underwent hormonal treatment. Two of them "took" and two separate amniotic sacs were visible in an ultrasound scan. The pregnancy is now in its second month.

The other embryos were frozen and could be implanted in the future should the couple want more children.



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NEWS

in brief

Levy to Jordan today

Foreign Minister David Levy visits Jordan today at the invitation of his Jordanian counterpart, Faysal Tarawne. He will hold talks on the peace process with Crown Prince Hassan and lunch with King Hussein before returning home this evening.

Jerusalem Post Staff

PM reassures Mubarak over Ras al-Amud

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu reassured Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday that his government does not intend to proceed with the Ras al-Amud housing project, saying that doing so could harm the peace process.

This was the gist of a personal telegram sent by Netanyahu in response to a message from Mubarak delivered on Sunday by Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny.

In a separate initiative, cabinet secretary Danny Naveh sent a message to the Egyptians suggesting they urge the Palestinians not to exploit the Ras al-Amud affair for propaganda purposes, sources said.

Jay Bushinsky

US in favor of extending MEPFA

The Clinton administration is pushing for an extension of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act, which allows for US relations with the Palestinians. The administration officially notified Congress yesterday of its intent, just five days after it told Capitol Hill it would not seek an extension. The issue is pertinent now because Congress will leave Friday for a month-long vacation, and MEPFA is due to expire in early August.

A congressional source said that the Senate and the administration are in "very preliminary" discussions on providing a short-term extension that would keep the law alive until Congress reconvenes.

Hillel Kuttler

Dispute over location of Susskin's evaluation

Supreme Court Justice Dalia Dornier will next week determine whether Tatiana Susskin, who allegedly posted leaflets in Hebron depicting Mohammed as a pig, should undergo her court-ordered psychiatric exam in a prison ward or in a mental hospital.

Susskin's lawyer, Shmuel Casper, objected to having the examination done in the psychiatric ward of Ayalon Prison. Dornier also expressed discomfort with the idea, even though the state insists she be kept under guard at all times. The Eitanim Mental Hospital, which had been approached to conduct the evaluation, does not allow guards.

Itim

Nahal settlement inaugurated today

By ARLEN O'SULLIVAN

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and top settlement officials are to dedicate a Nahal settlement in the southern Hebron foothills today, in a move Mordechai hopes will spur a rebirth of Zionist values and motivation among the nation's youth.

The paramilitary agricultural settlement, known as a *heahzu* in Hebrew, is to be called Yatir and is located just inside the Green Line, straddling the main Beersheba-Hebron highway. It is the first settlement established by the IDF's Nahal Corps since 1985.

The settlement will come under the responsibility of the Defense Ministry and the Jewish Agency. Founding members will come from

the Bnei Akiva youth movement. Soldiers there will perform routine security tasks as well as farming and community work. They also are to work to prevent squatting on state land.

Yatir is to be followed by the establishment of another Nahal outpost to its east called Sansane. Both are part of a dual effort to boost Zionist values among the youth and strengthen settlement in the southern Hebron hills.

"By its decision, the defense establishment wants to inject into youth the values of settlement, pioneering, and national mission," a ministry statement said.

Yatir is located in the large Yatir forest about 12 kilometers east of Meitar. Sansane will be about three kilometers northwest of Kramim.

TALKS

Continued from Page 1

"Initial positive steps on the police issue have indeed been made. Having passed that threshold, Israel was prepared to engage on safe passage, the harbor and the airport security protocol... Progress on opening up all three sub-groups to discussion has been hindered by the Palestinian police [matter]."

"The sides have engaged directly in a very detailed series of steps... This is an Israeli-Palestinian negotiation. Whatever factors were reflected here are not due to

some US or Egyptian brokering," he said.

The official said he was not privy to other particulars of the deal, but denied that there was any trade-off as reported, along the lines of an Israeli postponement of a second IDF redeployment in exchange for a settlement freeze, or any agreement on moving directly into final-status talks.

The official would not comment on whether US special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross would travel to the region to participate in the talks or reports Ross is planning to return to the region in two weeks.

3 no-confidence motions defeated

By LIAT COLLINS

Three motions of no-confidence in the prime minister failed in the Knesset last night by a vote of 50-55, after five hours of debate.

The two Moledet MKs abstained. MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher), head of the Land of Israel Front, boycotted the vote to protest the attorney-general's ruling that the building at Ras al-Amud can be postponed.

MK Rafi Edri, who presented the motion filed jointly by Labor

and the Democratic Arab Party, said: "I filed this motion not just in Labor's name, but on behalf of the large part of the population which has lost its faith in the prime minister and despairs of a clear diplomatic policy. I filed it as an expression of the feeling in the whole world."

Edri called on the prime minister to decide on a date for new elections within 60 days.

Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom said if new elections were held today, the people would

reject this government. He also said that filing weekly no-confidence motions cheapens the value of a legitimate parliamentary tool.

Shalom complained of the wording of the no-confidence motions, which described the prime minister as a danger to security. "It's an insult to one's intelligence when said by those who were part of a government which brought about a process of terror in which 250 men, women, and children were killed in the three years following Oslo," said Shalom.

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak told his Knesset faction in an earlier meeting that Israel is "marching towards an armed confrontation with the Palestinians, because it is not meeting expectations." He accused the government of "a combination of blindness and lack of responsibility."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid, presenting Meretz's motion, compared the conditions under which the Second Temple fell and conditions today, describing them both as "fanaticism, religious extrem-

ism, military adventures, national messianism, and complete detachment from reality."

He launched a scathing personal attack on the prime minister, saying: "Binyamin Netanyahu, the people of Israel is ashamed of you."

Hadash's Hashem Mahameed focused more on social and economic issues in presenting his party's motion, but he also called the government "pyromaniacs," who set fires in the diplomatic field to kill the peace process.

IDF closes Hebron stores for Arafat visit

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Israel ordered the closure of Palestinian stores in Hebron's Shallalah Street yesterday and barred Israelis from entering the HI (Palestinian-controlled) area for security reasons as PA Chairman Yasser Arafat visited the city.

Arafat was in Hebron as part of a 10-day visit to the West Bank. He was scheduled to meet with Palestinian merchants yesterday afternoon and discuss the deteriorating economic situation in Hebron due to the repeated closure of stores following the recent riots.

The latest store closures were enforced after four pipe bombs were thrown at IDF troops - three on Sunday night and one on Saturday night.

No one was injured in the explosions. Security forces reportedly detained 20 Palestinians for questioning on Sunday night in their search for the bomb-throwers.

A Reuters cameraman claimed he was harassed by IDF soldiers when he filmed them detaining a Palestinian. He charged that the soldiers threatened to break his camera.

The IDF had agreed to allow the stores in the Shallalah Street area to reopen two weeks ago after the Palestinians guaranteed to maintain a large presence in the area to quell rioting.

The area was the scene of intense clashes between Palestinians and security forces after Tatiana Susskin posted leaflets on store fronts depicting the Prophet Mohammed as a pig in June.

In a separate incident, security forces arrested three Palestinians in the Hebron area suspected of terrorist activities.

Meanwhile, a Palestinian landowner near Givat Harsina claimed IDF forces confiscated six dunams (1.5 acres) of his land, declaring it government property.

Mohammed Sultan, 65, claims he inherited the land from his father some 30 years ago.

However, Lt. Peter Lerner, spokesman for the Civil Administration in Judea and Samaria, denied the claim, saying Sultan had seized the land illegally and had no title to it.

Itim adds: PA Chairman Yasser Arafat told senior Palestinian Police officials to prepare themselves for a long battle with Israel, Palestinian sources said last night.

Speaking to the police officials in Hebron about the local situation, Arafat reportedly told them to be more forceful in their efforts in the city. He said a long battle could be expected between the PA and Israel, and they should get ready for it.



Knesset Interior Committee chairman Salah Tarif (center, dark glasses), examines building plans for Ras al-Amud during a tour of the site yesterday with MKs Nissan Smoliansky (left), Benny Elon (second from right) and Taleb a-Sanaa (right). (Flash 90)

Interior Committee visits Ras al-Amud

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

As plans to build a Jewish neighborhood in Ras al-Amud continued to generate sensational headlines here and abroad, members of the Knesset Interior Committee visited the site and poured over the building plans, with some supporting the proposed construction and others charging it would be disastrous.

At the same time, an Interior Ministry official suspended the building permit granted to US businessman Irving Moskowitz to build on the site, pending an appeal filed with the ministry's appeals committee by two Jerusalem city councilors.

Interior Ministry spokeswoman

Tova Ellinson said the appeal would be heard next week.

As Jerusalem city engineer Uri Ben-Asher explained the construction plans, which include underground parking, the MKs aired their views to reporters.

"This neighborhood is in the center of a densely populated Arab neighborhood; it is hard to see how permission was given to build," said committee chairman Salah Tarif.

But Moledet MK Benny Elon stressed that the site had been under Jewish hands for 100 years. Gesturing around him, he said, "This is not densely populated. This site belongs to the Jews."

Regarding claims that going ahead with construction would

provoke violence, Elon said, "The Arabs have their agenda; they can always find an excuse for violence if they want to. Look what happened when the [Western Wall] tunnel exit was opened?"

Meanwhile, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon slammed the government's statement that the timing to build in Ras al-Amud is wrong.

During a tour of Migdal Ha'emek yesterday, Sharon said that constructing a Jewish neighborhood there is necessary to prevent Palestinians from creating a corridor between Ras al-Amud and the Old City.

"Apologizing to Arafat weakens Israel's position and has created a situation that to build in Jerusalem, Israel will need to

seek the Palestinians' agreement, Sharon said, adding, "The Palestinian Authority sees the Israeli presence as temporary."

In an attempt to pressure the government into retracting the decision to delay construction, MKs from the Land of Israel Front also visited Ras al-Amud, accompanied by Aharon Domb, secretary-general of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza and council spokesman Yechiel Leiter.

MK Rehavam Ze'evi (Moledet) asked, "During 100 years of Zionism when was the timing right? Jews are entitled to build wherever they want in the State of Israel providing they have obtained all the necessary permits."

Report: Mideast 'peace pulse' low but steady

By HILLEL KUTTNER

WASHINGTON - The state of affairs in the Middle East peace process has been steady since January, although it remains alarmingly low, according to a study being released today.

The report, called Peace Pulse, is prepared quarterly by the New York-

based Israel Policy Forum and the UCLA Center for International Relations. It rates on a scale of one to 10 and analyzes 14 qualitative and quantitative factors related to the peace process, including economics, terrorism, and Arab-Israeli relations.

"Having declined dramatically during the first quarter of 1997, one might have expected the

Peace Pulse rating to go from bad to worse. In fact, while there was no significant progress in the second quarter, there was also no further deterioration," it stated.

Slightly more Israelis and slightly fewer Palestinians support the peace process now compared to when the report was last compiled in April. But the panel, consisting of American

Middle East experts from across the political spectrum, said it is encouraged that 68% of Palestinians now support the peace process.

"Although Palestinians and Israelis did not make progress during the quarter, it can also be said that their relationship did not seriously deteriorate from the end of the previous comparable period," the report stated.

MK Yehezkel: Shuafat Ridge profiteers must pay

By DAVID HARRIS

MK Avi Yehezkel (Labor), the new chairman of the Knesset Economic Affairs Committee, demanded yesterday that everyone who bought a home in Jerusalem's Shuafat Ridge neighborhood at subsidized rates to which they were not entitled, be forced to pay the full price, even if they already have sold the property.

MKs on the committee also were highly critical of the lack of supervision in the Construction and Housing Ministry which allegedly led to apartments being sold at cheap rates to relatives and associates of political officials who were ineligible for the government-subsidized housing.

A report on Channel 1 on July 4 claimed Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai and relatives of Construction and Housing Deputy Minister Meir Porush had purchased properties in the development, which faces Ramot in northeast Jerusalem.

Yehezkel requested that during the Knesset recess, the Construction and Housing Ministry present him with a list of names of all those whom purchased properties at the discounted price but did not qualify for grant assistance.

While the Shuafat development was specifically designated for the haredi community, both MK Moshe

Gafni (United Torah Judaism) and Tamar Gozansky (Hadash) said this was not a religious issue and there have been other similar examples that have crossed the religious divide.

All present agreed the distribution of cheap housing through a non-profit housing association, as in the case of Shuafat Ridge, is a sensible system. Despite the praise, there was also a general agreement the supervision of such methods of housing-distribution must be improved.

"Why did a television reporter have to reveal this?" asked Gozansky. "Doesn't the Housing Ministry have the appropriate supervisory mechanism?"

Furthermore, she asked, how come a housing association can build a property for \$80,000 to \$100,000, while the rest of the hous-

ing market is so expensive?

Ministry representatives pointed out that of the 2,100 homes in question, so far they only have found that 13 householders were ineligible. The television report suggested as many as 40% of the homes had been obtained through dubious techniques.

Several residents whom belong to one of the seven associations involved have turned to the courts, calling for their particular organization to be disbanded, claiming that 30% of the association's membership received housing they were not entitled to purchase.

Among those who bought properties were businesspeople from the United Kingdom and US, according to cottage association member Shimon Tarjoni.



All smiles

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani (right) exchanges smiles with a Palestinian Police officer at the Karni crossing point to the Gaza Strip yesterday. (Reuters)

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Hizbullah threatens Katyusha attack

By DAVID RUDGE

Hizbullah leaders reiterated threats to fire Katyusha rockets at the Galilee, as fighting continued in south Lebanon yesterday.

IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets in the Jezzeine region in the afternoon following prolonged exchanges in the morning in the eastern sector of the security zone.

Reports from Lebanon said the warplanes fired rockets at targets near Kafr Milki in the Iklim al-Toufah region, which is considered a stronghold of Hizbullah. There were no immediate reports of any casualties as a result of the air strike.

Early in the morning there were reports of heavy exchanges between Hizbullah and IDF and South Lebanese Army gunners.

According to reports from Lebanon two homes in Habush village, near Nabatiya, were damaged as a result of IDF-SLA shellfire, although there were no casualties.

Hizbullah said it had fired mortars and anti-tank missiles at the IDF's Suweidh outpost, north of Dabsha, during the exchanges. There were no reports of any casualties.

The Lebanese government announced that it would submit a complaint to the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group over the damage to the homes in Habush village.

The five-nation committee established to supervise the understandings reached at the end of last April's cross-border fighting is to

convene at UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura tomorrow to discuss complaints from Israel and Lebanon over recent violations.

Israel has lodged complaints over three separate incidents in the past few days. Two of the incidents occurred in fighting on Sunday during which a woman resident of Rehan village, in the eastern sector of the security zone, was wounded by Hizbullah mortar fire.

In the other incident on the same day, Israel has accused Hizbullah of firing mortars at a SLA outpost from the outskirts of Nabatiya, north of the zone. The understandings prohibit the use of villages or public facilities as cover for firing or launching attacks.

The third complaint relates to fighting on Saturday, during which Hizbullah fired Katyusha rockets at SLA positions in the eastern sector of the security zone and at least one hit the Druze village of Kawkabeh.

Hizbullah claimed at the time that the Katyusha fire was in response to earlier IDF and SLA shelling in which a 70-year-old woman resident of Sochmore, a village north of the zone, was moderately wounded. Lebanon has already protested to the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group over that incident.

Meanwhile, there were reports from Lebanon that the Israel Navy detained two Lebanese fishermen yesterday for encroaching too close to an area off the coast from the security zone. Lebanese radio reports said the fishermen were released with a warning.

Accord reached on Mount Meron

By BATSHEVA TSUR

President Ezer Weizman has intervened to resolve the years-long dispute between the Druze residents of the village of Beit Jann and the Nature Reserves Authority.

The bad blood between the villagers and the conservationists, which has taken them in and out of the courts numerous times over the years and has led to repeated violent clashes, "will be over within two months," Beit Hanassi director-general Arye Shumer declared yesterday evening after representatives of both sides had met with the president.

As part of the compromise agreement, the Beit Jann residents will present to the Nazareth district planning committee their plan for a road from the village to neighboring Hurfeish. This will legalize a road they built about two years ago which brought upon them the ire of the "greens" as it ran through the Mount Meron Nature Reserve, the largest in the country and said to be of significant international importance. The conservationists are now not expected to oppose the road.

The Beit Jann representatives came to Jerusalem yesterday to attend a session of the Knesset Interior Committee devoted to the conflict. The session was also attended by senior NRA officials and Environment Ministry Director-General Nehama Ronen. The feuding sides then went on to meet the president.

"Are the 53 Beit Jann boys who fell in the ranks of the IDF less



Knesset Interior Committee chairman Salah Tarif (center) meets with representatives of the Druze village of Beit Jann who were in Jerusalem to attend the committee's meeting on the Mount Meron Nature Reserve. The villagers later met with President Ezer Weizman, who helped to find a compromise solution to their long-time conflict with conservationists over land in the reserve. (Photo: Hazeem)

important to this country than some 800 disputed meters of land?" asked Hussein Dib, who lost his only son in Lebanon and was referring to the heavy price Beit Jann has paid in defending

the security of the State. Both sides managed to keep their cool as members of the committee, chaired by MK Salah Tarif (Labor), tried to iron out the dispute. "I cannot take sides," said

Northern District Police Commander Alik Ron, whose men suffered casualties while trying to quell disturbances in Beit Jann last week. "But my heart tells me there should be a road. However, we

must all uphold the law." The compromise formula which had evaded the two sides for so long was reportedly found shortly after, when the president intervened.

BACKGROUND

The struggle over Mount Meron

By DAVID RUDGE

The struggle for control over land in the Mount Meron Nature Reserve has been going on for decades.

For the Druze residents of Beit Jann, it is not merely a matter of principle but a question of livelihood and quality of life, as well as recognition for the role they have played in ensuring the security of the State.

For the conservationists and legal experts, it is a question of preserving the environment, safeguarding the laws of the State, and ensuring that natural beauty is guarded for future generations.

The residents of Beit Jann maintain that they have legal rights to land inside the nature reserve, while their village is cut off from the rest of the region because it has only one access route.

The Nature Reserves Authority (NRA) and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) maintain that without laws and controls, the reserve, which is recognized as one of the most important of its kind in the world, could be destroyed by development and indiscriminate farming.

The situation exploded in 1987, when residents of Beit Jann pitched a protest tent in the heart of the reserve. They demanded the right to be able to farm their own land and be able to enter and leave the village, without having to travel dozens of kilometers to the nearest Druze community.

Attempts by NRA wardens, backed by police and border

police, to dismantle the illegal tent resulted in fierce riots in which dozens of people were injured.

Since then, attempts have been made to reach a compromise that would enable the farmers in Beit Jann to cultivate their lands in the reserve, while expanding the jurisdiction of the village to allow legal housing development.

An agreement was reached with the NRA whereby farmers with land titles would be able to cultivate their land. The NRA and the SPNI also agreed to turn a blind eye to a road blazed by the villagers between Beit Jann and nearby Ein el-Asad.

The plan, however, was rejected by the attorney-general, while Environment Minister Rafael Eitan recently opposed another road that was constructed illegally by Beit Jann residents between the village and nearby Hurfeish.

In light of Eitan's decision, the Supreme Court ruled on Sunday that the road between Beit Jann and Hurfeish should be closed from the beginning of next month.

Police have beefed-up their presence in the area, while residents have barricaded the road to keep NRA officials out of the village, which is the main access to the heart of the reserve.

In the interim, efforts are being made by all those involved to try and reach a compromise that would satisfy the conservationists and the residents of Beit Jann, whose population exceeds 9,000. Beit Jann has lost, in relation to its size, more sons in Israel's wars than any other community in the country.

Habad receives \$1 million printing press

By RAINE MARCUS

Habad's youth village recently received a \$1 million Heidelberg printing press from a group of Toronto Jews. Habad is using the press for commercial purposes, producing material for banks and other establishments.

The youth village provides its residents, many of whom come from dysfunctional families and broken homes, a chance to learn a profession and live a normal

life, said the youth village school's vice president, Yehuda Edelkopf. Many of the teenagers are new immigrants from the CIS and Ethiopia whose families have difficulty in supporting them.

"Our aim is to give these kids a future and to teach them a profession," Edelkopf said. "And the donors are pleased that the printing press will be self-sufficient, earning money from work commissioned."

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

MICHAEL VDELMAN

Olmert Manipulated Bibi
If Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu fell into a trap last week in the Golan reinforcement legislation, this week he was manipulated into an impossible position vis-a-vis Ras al-Amud by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, the media and politicians agree.

Olmert's insistence on building in Ras al-Amud, in defiance of Netanyahu, is part of the groundwork for his challenging the PM for the Likud leadership, comments Yossi Werther in *Ha'arets*. Olmert's role in opening the Western Wall Tunnel, in launching the construction on Har Homa and now in Ras al-Amud, combined with his closeness to the haredim and tight relations with tycoons around the world turn him into a real threat to Netanyahu, says Werther.

Yediot Aharonot's Nahum Barnea reveals that Olmert refused a deal proposed by Netanyahu, according to which Olmert would halt the creation of the Jewish Ghetto in Ras al-Amud. Irving Moscovitz, the landowner, would then petition the High Court. If the court prevented the project, everyone would gain. If it approved it, responsibility for the subsequent explosion would fall on the court. "What Netanyahu and Olmert finally did - agree to trust Moscovitz's word - is like leaving the fire station in the hands of a pyromaniac," states Barnea. He compares Tatiana Susskin and her pig leaflet in Hebron to Moscovitz in Jerusalem. Moscovitz, with whose money and clout the famous Jerusalem tunnel was opened, purchased houses in the Moslem Quarter and Arab neighborhoods in Jerusalem, "putting together poor, nationalistic Moslems with extremist Jewish settlers whose real goal is to deport the Arabs from Jerusalem and burn down the mosques of the Temple Mount. The combination is impossible. The friction is violent and dangerous - but Moscovitz won't be here when it all blows up."

"Humor and attraction"
Yosef Lapid, in *Ma'ariv*, writes of the ad promising "an evening full of humor and attraction" dedicated to raising to heaven the souls of the 73 victims of the helicopter disaster. The ad was not

some miserable mistake of a copywriter gone mad, says Lapid. Behind it was Rabbi Amnon Yitzhak, a famous "converter," whose actions Lapid brands "the subversive work of fanatic fundamentalism threatening our culture and way of life." Lapid describes Yitzhak's "happening" as something of a circus-cum-vooodoo show, adding that he threatens his listeners that whoever doesn't convert will end up in hell. He preaches against Zionism and casts doubt over the Israeli state's right to exist, says Lapid.

Ma'ariv's Kobi Bleich offers the view of the bereaved parents, who were shocked to learn of the use made of their loss by the converter's people. They slammed the affair as a cynical exploitation of their tragedy to attract crowds to Amnon Yitzhak's show.

Pretty in Pink
Prime Minister Netanyahu's rejection of the pessimistic estimates for 1998 presented by the financial leadership and his ordering of a more optimistic forecast attracted much media comment.

They used to kill the messenger, comments Dov Genichovski in *Yediot Aharonot*. Now they just return the message and demand a better one. However, he notes, the prime minister is probably right - not because the Treasury's forecast is too black, but because it is too pink. The trick is not to shelve forecasts which depress the country's leader, but to admit the truth.

Ma'ariv's Lapid scoffs at Netanyahu's demand for a more cheerful forecast, noting that it derives from the superstition that prophecy determines the future. The GNP won't grow simply because the Treasury predicts it will, states Lapid. Growth is a function of objective economic conditions. When such conditions do not exist, talking will not help.

Ma'ariv's Gabi Kessler suggests that Netanyahu was right to send the Treasury people to do their homework. The Treasury's job isn't to predict what will happen to the economy but to propose alternatives to economic policy, tell the ministers what will happen if they fail to make the required budgetary slashes and then let them decide.

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مكتبات الوصول

NEWS

in brief

Corruption found in assigning recruits

The army said it plans to indict over a dozen soldiers and officers for allegedly accepting bribes to grant recruits easy service. At least two have already been charged, the army said. The alleged corruption took place at the IDF induction center and involved dozens of cases of recruits seeking to get out of field units and get assigned to rear units close to home. One officer, identified only as Staff-Sgt. Eyal, a senior warrant officer at the induction center, was charged on 16 counts of accepting bribes in return for helping recruits get removed from courses and reassigned to easy units, like the induction center. *Arich O'Sullivan*

Navon back to work

IDF Chief Chaplain Maj.-Gen. Gad Navon returned to work yesterday, nearly two months after he collapsed during a Jerusalem Day ceremony after suffering an apparent heart attack. Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak visited Navon at his office and welcomed him back to work. Navon, 75, has served for 20 years as chief chaplain. Shortly after he fell unconscious in his chair at a ceremony on Ammunition Hill, Shas and the National Religious Party began pushing for their candidates to replace him. *Arich O'Sullivan*

Palestinian intifada victims protest at Knesset

Palestinian victims of the intifada, who stand to lose from new legislation due to have been introduced in the Knesset late last night, demonstrated yesterday outside the House. Three young Palestinian girls, who were inadvertently maimed by stray rubber bullets and partially paralyzed as a result, visited the Knesset and met with MKs to explain the need to receive compensation for their plight. The new law would define IDF actions during the intifada as activity in time of war, thus freeing the state of responsibility for compensating most victims. *Batsheva Tsur*

Veteran 'Hatzofeh' journalist dies

Ya'acov Edelstein, a veteran journalist at *Hatzofeh* and one of the four survivors of the massacre at Kfar Etzion during the War of Independence, died yesterday at age 69. He was buried on Jerusalem's Har Hamenuhot. Edelstein sat in captivity in Jordan for nine months following the massacre, and began working for the National Religious Party-affiliated daily upon his return. He served as its diplomatic correspondent for many years. The Polish-born Edelstein authored 14 books, and was chairman of the Religious Authors Association, also serving as the editor of its journal. He left his wife, two sons, two daughters and grandchildren. *Iim*

World Congress of Jewish Studies opens

The 12th World Congress of Jewish Studies officially opens tonight with a ceremony at Jerusalem's Citadel Museum. Researchers from 28 countries will participate in the week-long event which will be held on the Mount Scopus campus of the Hebrew University. The topics to be covered in the 1,250 lectures on offer range from bible studies and history to art and contemporary Jewry. *Jerusalem Post Reporter*

Artificial heart patient doing well

Yishai Einbinder, 50, who underwent implantation of an artificial heart at Sheba Hospital a month ago, is doing well and even reading a daily newspaper. Doctors at the Tel Hashomer hospital said he recently started walking outside his intensive cardiac care department and is taking interest in what's going on in the world. He received the artificial heart when his condition deteriorated seriously and no donor heart was available. *Judy Siegel*

Meretz MK Ran Cohen:

'Housing Ministry favors haredim'

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The Housing Ministry under Deputy Minister Meir Porush (United Torah Judaism), has completely stopped all funding to many non-haredi neighborhoods and localities while it has funneled NIS 4.3 million to haredi areas this year, MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) charged yesterday. Cohen, who is in bed with a broken leg, wrote to State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, asking that she investigate this "discriminatory policy." According to figures provided by Cohen, a total of NIS 5.635m. has been cut from sec-

ular and national-religious neighborhoods since 1995. For example, Bnei Ayish, a national-religious community, which received NIS 240,000 in 1995, received only NIS 100,000 last year and zero this year, Cohen said. South Givatayim, which was funded by the ministry to the tune of NIS 250,000 last year, did not get one agora this year. Bat Yam south, which received assistance amounting to NIS 500,000 in 1995, this year received a mere NIS 100,000, Cohen said, and Taiba's budget was cut from NIS 2,500,000 in 1995 to NIS 600,000 in 1997. At the same time, the haredi Vznitz

quarter in Haifa, which received NIS 60,000 in 1996, got 10 times that - NIS 600,000 - this year, and the haredi Neveh Sharett quarter of Tel Aviv received a whopping NIS 1,200,000. "Over two years, the total cut to non-haredi neighborhoods was NIS 5.635 million while the total increase to the haredi neighborhoods was NIS 4.3m," Cohen wrote to the comptroller. "Deputy Minister Meir Porush is acting in an unbalanced fashion and with total disregard for elementary rules of public conduct [which require him to] serve the entire public in Israel and not just his voters and followers."

"Bunkum," said Porush's media adviser, Moshe Eilat, when asked to respond. "There is not an ounce of truth to the allegations. They are a cheap political attempt by Cohen to get headlines and to curry favor with the fringe secular leftists of Meretz. "The ministry does not make distinctions between secular and haredi residents. Our work plans include secular Jews, Arabs and Druse as well and our criteria are professional," he said. Eilat added it was impossible to give a breakdown of funds that were given to different neighborhoods this year.

Bid to reduce school-fees burden

By Jerusalem Post Staff and Iim

Education Ministry Director-General Benzion Dell proposed yesterday that the ministry cover the NIS 10 million difference between last year's and this year's mandatory school fees to lessen the burden on parents.

Dell discussed this yesterday with MK Emanuel Zissmann, head of the Knesset Education and Culture Committee. They agreed Dell would address the committee today regarding the cancelling of matriculation exam fees (at a cost of NIS 30 million) and on the Education Ministry absorbing the difference between last year's and this year's mandatory school fees.

"I will not authorize any payment from the parents this year which is higher than last year's payment," Zissmann said yesterday.

The Education Ministry also announced yesterday that starting September 1 there will be 130,000 more classroom hours. This includes 60,000 hours to accommodate natural growth and 50,000 hours for long-school-day projects.

Meanwhile, according to a survey Dr. Shlomo Tzedkiah presented to Education Minister Zevulun Hammer yesterday, the public is satisfied with the current system which allows parents to select their children's school.



Final exam

Veteran IDF jumpmaster Mordechai Okrat, 46, points the way out to a graduate of his final jump course as a reservist instructor. (IDF Spokesman)

Tichon recommends cutting Knesset recess

Following a request by MK Ophir Pines (Labor) and others, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon recommended that the Knesset House Committee cut the summer recess by two weeks. The recess is scheduled to start next week and end in late October.

Tichon noted, however, that even during the recess the Knesset works and several committees hold regular meetings. Also, the opposition usually asks for special plenum sessions to be held. Yesterday the House Committee held a long discussion on procedure which could allow the Knesset to hold no-confidence motions during the recess. The request

for this was made by Labor MK Haggai Meron. Tichon noted he had also recommended the recess be cut last year but, he added, "that was the one recommendation of mine the House Committee rejected in the past 13 months." *Liat Collins*

Greenpeace activists get slap on wrist for protest

By SUE FISHKOFF

Greenpeace activists involved in a protest action against Haifa Chemicals on Sunday were fined NIS 50 yesterday by a Haifa Magistrate's Court judge who landed their commitment to environmental protection. Early Sunday morning, the Greenpeace ship *MV Sirius* attached itself to a barge used by Haifa Chemicals to dump its toxic sludge into the Mediterranean. The *Sirius* dragged the barge into

the middle of Haifa Bay. Four Greenpeace activists chained themselves to the barge's deck and raised a placard reading, "Stop Dumping Now." The four, along with the ship's captain, were detained and charged with "using a sea vessel without the owner's permission," which carries a maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment.

At a hearing yesterday morning, Judge K. Hir ordered the three foreign defendants - the ship's captain

and two crew members - to pay a NIS 50 fine and sign a promise not to repeat the offense for a period of two years. Their two Israeli co-defendants will be sentenced later.

"The defendants' intention was to demonstrate to the public the environmental danger that results from the dumping of toxic waste at sea, and their actions bore fruit," the judge stated in his verdict. He noted that the Environment Ministry responded to the protest Sunday by announcing that Haifa Chemicals

and the Electric Corp. must stop dumping their toxic waste into the Mediterranean by the end of 1997.

"Although we should congratulate the defendants on their protest, which resulted in a positive contribution to the environment, they nevertheless acted against the law, and the law obliges me to punish them," the judge continued. "But because of the nature of their intention and the positive consequence yielded by their actions, I fine them NIS 50."

Greenpeace Israel head Ofer Ben-Dov said he was very happy with the decision. "That fact that the judge fined them only symbolically shows that he believes we were right," Ben-Dov said. "We won the Environment

Ministry's promise to halt dumping of coal ash and toxic sludge at sea by the end of the year, and that's what we had aimed for."

"I was charged with a criminal act, but the real criminals are those polluting the environment," said *Sirius* Captain David Enever. "They're the ones who should be standing in this [the defendants'] dock. The multinational companies polluting the environment hide behind the law, and the law can only be changed by people advocating a better, cleaner future." The *Sirius* left Haifa yesterday for Malta after a 10-day visit during which crew members hosted the public on three "open ship" days in the ports of Ashdod and Haifa.

High rate of anemia found in J'lem babies

By JUDY SIEGEL

Iron-deficiency anemia, which can slow children's physical and intellectual development, is significantly more common among babies in haredi and Arab families in Jerusalem than among national-religious and secular Jewish families, though the rate is quite high in the latter groups, too. This is the major finding of a survey conducted by the Jerusalem Municipality's public health nurses and reported by the Health Ministry.

The study found that 35% of haredi babies are anemic (with a rate of less than 11 grams of hemoglobin per deciliter of

blood), compared to 27% of Arab babies and only 22% of babies from modern Orthodox or secular families. By comparison, the rate of iron-deficiency anemia in the US is less than 10%.

The ministry said it is "taking the findings seriously" and intends to collect data on iron-deficiency anemia among babies around the country along the lines of the Jerusalem research. Health Minister Yehoshua Matza said efforts will be made to prevent anemia at family health (*tipat halav*) centers and through other community health services.

Dr. Arie Reisin, head of Jerusalem's municipal public health services, explained that some parts of the haredi community "don't trust the kosher certification" on iron-enriched dairy-based baby formulas, and instead purchase only non-dairy, soya-based baby formulas, and instead purchase only non-dairy, soya-based formulas. "Soya retards the absorption of iron in the intestines," explained Reisin.

In the Arab community, many mothers give their babies either cow's milk or bottles-made from ordinary powdered milk, neither of which are iron-enriched. Women who nurse should also give their infant an iron supplement in syrup form to increase the baby's iron intake.

The ministry stresses the importance of giving iron supplements and iron-enriched food to babies. Infants aged four to 12 months should be getting them in addition to vitamins A and D.

Reisin said that efforts to persuade leading rabbis in the haredi community of the importance of iron supplements for babies has not yet borne fruit. "In general, every time a baby has some symptom, mothers tend to blame it on the iron and then discontinue it," he said.

Asked why the municipality doesn't target parents with children in the kindergartens and first grade for information campaigns, Reisin said this was a good idea that could be implemented. "But it would have to be with pamphlets explaining the dangers of anemia and urging parents to take their children to their health fund for a blood test. It would be impossible to conduct blood tests in kindergartens or schools," he said.

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Belgrade Jewish graves desecrated

BELGRADE (AP) - Nine old, massive monuments were pulled down or damaged in a Jewish cemetery in a Belgrade suburb governed by right-wing ultranationalists, a Yugoslav Jewish organization said yesterday.

The monuments, desecrated last week, together weighed more than 25 tons, "which indicates that it was not the act of an individual," the Belgrade-based Federation of Jewish Communities of Yugoslavia said in a press release.

The Radical Party has denied any links with this or previous incidents and dismissed them as random acts of violence by individuals.

"We are very worried," said Aca Singer, head of the Jewish community in Yugoslavia. "This is the first desecration of our Jewish cemetery, and we think it's highly strange that only Jewish graves were damaged in this attack... you have the Catholic and the Orthodox Christian cemeteries next to it."

Up to 3,000 Jews live in Serbia and Montenegro, the two republics that now form Yugoslavia.

Desecration of Jewish monuments has been rare in Yugoslavia.

There have, however, been occasional anti-Jewish publications and statements by ultranationalist and other extremists as a byproduct of the Serb nationalism that primarily targets Catholic Croats and Muslims of former Yugoslavia.

US Air Force chief resigns

By ROBERT BURNS

WASHINGTON (AP) - Gen. Ronald Fogleman, the Air Force chief of staff, asked yesterday to retire ahead of schedule for "a variety of reasons," including differences over responsibility for a terrorist blast last year that claimed 19 airmen's lives, Pentagon officials said.

Fogleman, the 16th Air Force chief of staff, would be the first ever to step down voluntarily before his four-year term was up, if his request for retirement is accepted by Air Force Secretary Sheila Widnall. He has served three years of his four-year term.

Widnall has not yet acted on the request, the officials said.

It had been well-known around the Pentagon that the four-star general had told associates he would resign if Air Force generals were punished for not preventing the terrorist bombing at Khobar Towers, a military barracks in Saudi Arabia, on June 25, 1996, in which 19 US airmen were killed.

Defense Secretary William Cohen is scheduled to make a decision this week on whether to hold one or more top Air Force officials responsible for the incident.

Fogleman told Widnall he wants to retire as soon as possible and not later than September 1, one official said.

Fogleman informed his top staff of his decision this morning, and said that he was doing it for the good of the Air Force.

The officials said Fogleman's action was linked largely to Cohen's anticipated decision on Khobar Towers, although they were not aware of what Cohen had decided. CNN reported that Fogleman acted to avoid the appearance of trying to influence Cohen's decision on Khobar Towers.

Fogleman is a 1963 graduate of the Air Force Academy and was a highly decorated fighter pilot in Vietnam, flying some 315 combat missions.



Soldier in training
Kolya Lisovoy, nine, crawls through the mud Sunday at a training camp in Boyarkino for future Russian Army soldiers. (Reuters)

MIDEAST JOURNAL

By Nicholas Goldberg

ISTANBUL - Matild Manukyan loves to talk about her enormous, custom-built yacht, her immense Rolls-Royce, her multi-million-dollar charitable contributions and the houses she owns all over Turkey - but she does not like to talk about where the money comes from.

The reason is that Manukyan - an 82-year-old pillar of Istanbul society, who has been known to pay as much as \$9 million in annual taxes - is the country's most famous madam, and her enormous fortune was built over 30 years from a string of 32 run-down brothels. She still owns almost a dozen of them.

"Oh, who cares about that," she said in an interview at her massive, multi-floored, flower-filled apartment. "People always like to find something wrong with what you do. I don't listen." The reason she doesn't like to talk about it is not that it's illegal. In fact, Turkey is one of the few

Prostitution flourishes in Turkey

countries in the world where prostitution is legal.

A person like Manukyan who wants to set up a brothel must go first to the government and agree to be regulated by the health and social service authorities. Similarly, anyone who wants to become a prostitute must apply for a certificate, agree to regular AIDS and venereal disease checkups, and work only at a licensed brothel.

In many ways, the system works well. Because of government regulation, there are believed to be fewer pimps extorting or abusing women. There are safeguards regulating who may become a prostitute.

But even the regulations have not made life pleasant for Turkey's prostitutes, a fact that may help explain Manukyan's reluctance to dwell on the subject.

In the Karakoy district of Istanbul - at the entrance to the narrow, cobblestone alleyways where Manukyan's houses and others are located - a police gate bars the way, and from the main street outside, nothing is visible.

But once past the gate, a short walk up a hilly path reveals a string of storefront brothels lined up next to one another, lit by garish neon lights giving the impression of a dissolute nighttime carnival.

The women are dressed in bikinis or leotards or skimpy night shirts. Or they're naked, smoking and waiting while a dense crowd of Turkish men stands before them gawking. Most of the men don't go into the houses at all but have merely come to stare and leer.

A brief encounter usually costs about \$10, the men in the street said.

According to the 1996 quarterly records of the Turkish government, there are 56 brothels in Turkey. The number of registered prostitutes is 2,376. In addition, there is a sizable group of unlicensed prostitutes, mostly women who have sneaked in from the neighboring countries of the former Soviet Union.

In recent years, Turkey's certified prostitutes have won several crucial battles,

including one to be added to the nation's social security system, paying in a portion of their wages so that they would be eligible to receive a pension at retirement.

But life remains difficult for prostitutes in a country torn between its conservative Islamic tradition and its aggressively secular government.

For Manukyan, the society's divisions became acute in 1995, when she offered a donation to Istanbul University's Cerrahpasa teaching hospital. To her dismay, an organization of doctors, urged on by an Islamic religious leader, called on the hospital to reject her offer, arguing that the \$36,000 she had offered to the neurology department had been earned in an immoral and anti-Islamic way.

In the end - to nobody's great surprise - the hospital overcame its moral qualms, and accepted the gift. Similarly, many politicians have tried to duck out of public events where she was present, but have rarely refused her money. (Newsday)

ROCKEFELLER

Continued from Page 1

It's supposedly a known fact that at Rockefeller Center the ceilings are too low and there is not enough air-conditioning or electricity to run a business," said Philip Waterman III, a director of Tishman Speyer. "But if that was true, how could NBC or Lazard Freres or The Associated Press continue to operate?" He said that improvements in air conditioning, which had to be retrofitted to the older buildings in the center, had permitted raising ceilings from seven feet to almost nine feet, giving offices an expansive, rather than closed-in feeling.

Waterman, who is usually known as Tod, said Tishman Speyer had embarked on a program of pre-building office space so that it could accommodate small tenants, such as accounting or software firms, without delay and to demonstrate what can be done with the buildings.

"We spent \$50 a square foot to build out the space," Waterman said. "We want to have 25,000 square feet of this kind of space in inventory at all times." At Rockefeller Center, this amount of idle space is hardly noticed.

The 12 buildings to the east of the Avenue of the Americas have a total of 5,867,491 square feet of rental space, not including the space occupied by the NBC television network, which is a separately owned condominium. Tishman Speyer executives say that 331,183 square feet, or 5.64 percent of the total, is currently not occupied.

The old Rockefeller Center also included four buildings on the west side of the Avenue of the Americas, whose addresses are 1211, 1221, 1251 and 1271. Those are now managed by the Rockefeller Group, which is the successor to the company that sold the landmarked buildings to the east to the Tishman Speyer-led investment group. The Rockefeller Group is wholly owned by Mitsubishi Estate Co. of Japan.

Rockefeller Center was largely owned by Rockefeller family interests until the mid-1980s, when it sold the public shares in a real estate investment trust that held a mortgage on the property. Mitsubishi became involved in

1989 when it invested in the Rockefeller Group, which had continued to manage the center, ultimately buying 80%.

With rental rates for offices slumping during the real estate recession of the early part of the decade, the mortgage payments became unsustainable and a subsidiary of the Rockefeller Group filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on May 11, 1995. The Tishman Speyer, Goldman Sachs group reached agreement to take over the ownership later that year.

Although the two Rockefeller companies are now separated by the avenue, some entangling ties remain. One is Radio City Music Hall.

Tishman Speyer executives have said they are thinking about a new operator for the theater. "We hope to have something to say soon about the Music Hall, and it should be pretty exciting," Speyer said in an interview last Monday. Its existing lease with Radio City Productions, a subsidiary of the Rockefeller Group, expires next January.

But executives of the Rockefeller Group assert that the company retains ownership of the intellectual property associated with the Music Hall, including the Rockettes and the Christmas Show. This could make it difficult to bring in a new operator while retaining the Hall's most notable attractions.

Jonathan D. Greene, president of the Rockefeller Group's development corporation, said his company was still negotiating with the new owners about extending their tenure in Radio City Music Hall. "We expect to negotiate a long-term occupancy lease," he said.

Tishman Speyer executives say they are still studying the feasibility of converting part of all of one of the center's office buildings to a hotel, to take advantage of the booming lodging business in New York.

"We are working on a concept for a very special hotel, but we don't know yet if it will work," Speyer said. "We expect to be able to say whether we are going to do it or not before the end of the year." Other executives involved with Rockefeller Center say a hotel would be part of an effort to make the center an attractive destination

for visitors, rather than a 9-to-5 collection of office buildings.

Geoffrey Wharton, a managing director of Tishman Speyer, who is the day-to-day manager of the center, said his company had formed an affiliation with Mills Co., which has been highly successful in developing entertainment-oriented shopping malls that have become leading tourist attractions.

"Those people are not in the retail business," he said. "They are in the total time-capture business. That is what we are trying to do here. We don't want people to spend 30 seconds on the skating rink and take a picture of Prometheus," he said, referring to the sculpture of the mythological figure that overlooks the rink.

"We want people to shop here, dine here and - if we do the hotel - stay here," Wharton said.

Hotel analysts said a luxury hotel could generate more revenue for the center's owners than office space. "If you are talking Rockefeller Center office space, the yield from a hotel could easily be higher," said James E. Fitzgerald, a hospitality consultant with KMPG Peat Marwick. "That might not be true of a newer property on Park Avenue." The other big change expected at the center is to the retail space, which now is mainly populated with small shops catering to

the tenants of the buildings. Tishman Speyer executives have made it clear that they expect to replace the shops with multilevel stores, using the below-ground concourse and the mezzanines in some buildings. They say the Christie's deal is an indication that they expect to go upscale.

"Christie's will change the retail environment at Rockefeller Center," Speyer said.

The auction house will occupy part of a parking garage that is in two buildings on 48th Street between the Avenue of the Americas and Rockefeller Plaza that will give it both storage and exhibition space.

The key to the decision to locate there was the center's extensive underground loading docks, said Mary Ann Tighe, a broker with Insignia/ESG.

"Most office buildings are not equipped for intense loading and unloading," she said. But the combination of the space available in the garage and the availability of the docks make the location suitable for Christie's. "Christie's will go three stories below ground for its storage and restoration activities in addition to its showroom on the ground level and the actual auction rooms on the second floor," Tighe said.

Retail analysts noted that some

Column One



Journey without maps

By Thomas O'Dwyer

"God made pencils, but man made indiarubber," Graham Greene reported in the 1930s that this rickety proverb was current in Monrovia, the equally rickety capital of Liberia.

It was a comment on the ballot system - the government provided pencils for the voters to mark their election choices. Behind the scenes, the indiarubber took care of the results.

It is one of those enduring images of Africa. On that gloomy continent, few states are more depressing than Liberia, an observation that has remained unchanged since Greene was there 60 years ago and found it mired in sordidness and primitive darkness.

Last week, after years of yet another civil war, Liberians elected the warlord Charles Taylor president with a huge 65 percent majority.

With predictable naivete, many African and foreign media began crowing about a "victory for democracy" and "new hope for Liberia." The election was nothing more than a new version of the old Africa, bringing to "official" absolute power a brutal thug responsible for 150,000 dead in a country of 2.5 million. Half that population became refugees.

Liberia needs Taylor for president like Scotland needs Macbeth.

No other state in Africa was built on such high hopes. No other state has so conclusively and consistently trampled on those hopes year by year in the 175 that have passed since its founding in 1822.

Happy land
Liberia came into existence as a result of the efforts of the American Colonization Society's plan to settle freed American slaves in their ancestral homeland of Africa.

In 1847 the settlement became the free and independent Republic of Liberia with the Star and Stripes for a flag and a constitution modeled on the American one. A Virginia man, Joseph I. Roberts, became the first president.

Long live Liberia, happy land.
A home of glorious liberty by God's command, went the new national anthem.

Thus Liberia began its long journey into the future. Unfortunately, it was a journey without maps - the title aptly chosen by Greene for the book of his trek through its dark interior from Sierra Leone to Monrovia.

Roberts began a task that his successors also took up - and failed just as miserably to accomplish. The new immigrants may have come out of American slavery, but already they were far advanced over the indigenous natives of the dark jungles. Roberts, shrewdly foreseeing trouble, made it a national priority to raise the ethnic tribes to the level of the Afro-Americans.

New masters
The inevitable happened. The English-speaking newcomers were transformed from former slaves to new masters. They became a supe-

Mass. governor quits in bid for ambassadorship

BOSTON (AP) - Key players in his fight for the Mexico ambassadorship doubt his chances, but Gov. William F. Weld decided to resign and take on the man standing in his way, powerful North Carolina Sen. Jesse Helms.

Weld is announcing his resignation yesterday, effective today, the governor confirmed as he arrived at the Statehouse.

"He's very energized to go down to Washington and beat the drum on the ambassadorship," said the source. "We think his chances are much better than they were two weeks ago."

But just hours before Weld convened his meeting, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said the Republican governor's chances of being confirmed may have disappeared when he criticized Helms, the head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

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The right forecast

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is under attack again, this time from former finance minister Dan Meridor, who accuses him of manipulating Treasury growth projections to suit his purposes. Netanyahu should be praised, however, for sending Treasury officials back to the drawing boards — not to change their predictions, but to make constructive proposals to accelerate economic recovery.

Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman was supposed to have presented the Treasury's macro-economic forecast for 1998-2000 to the cabinet on Sunday. The forecast projected rising unemployment, zero growth in per capita private consumption, and a decline in investments in 1998.

Financial projections, even assuming the most talented and professional economists are behind them, are only reflections of the policy assumptions built in to them. It is therefore somewhat specious to say, as did Meridor, that, "If there is a forecast it must be accepted, you cannot order a forecast."

Whether they were ordered or not, the previous government enjoyed rosy Treasury projections based on a one-time revenue surplus that occurred in 1994. Now, the pendulum may be swinging the other way, and the Treasury may be overly cautious. Even if the Treasury projections are reasonable given a simple extension of current trends, it is not only fair but warranted for Netanyahu to ask for policy prescriptions that, if followed, might alter a pessimistic forecast.

The Treasury is sure to claim, and they might be right, that even the most heroic efforts will not accelerate growth as quickly as next year. In also true that Netanyahu has put the Treasury professionals in a somewhat awkward position, because their forecasts have already been presented to the press and any changes will be seen as bowing to political pressures.

For budgetary planning purposes, it would not be prudent to rely on overly-ambitious projections, so in this respect the Treasury is right to err on the side of caution. Still, it is appropriate for Netanyahu to coax the Treasury into, for a moment, putting aside the assumption that there will be no substantial budget cuts, sweeping pri-

vatzation, fundamental tax reform, or structural government reform in the near future.

It would not hurt the Treasury to exercise creative muscles that have lain dormant for some time. If the Treasury did perform such a thought experiment, it could actually help the government begin to make the case for reform in a more systematic way. Until now, Netanyahu has spoken in revolutionary terms about how he will transform Israel into the Hong Kong of the Middle East over the next few years. But, despite his admiration of the role of the American presidency, he has not really tried to use his office as a "bully pulpit" for economic reform.

To this day, Netanyahu has not developed a package of systematic reforms that will create the economy he is promising. More importantly, he has not begun to take the case for such reforms to the people who will resist them most, even though change may be to their benefit.

The recent Bezeq strike, for example, would have been an ideal opportunity to explain how privatization need not be at the expense of workers in government companies, but to their benefit and that of the general public. The strike, over the sale of 12.5 percent of the company to outside investors, ended up being a textbook example of how government-run companies can paralyze the economy for narrow aims. Instead, Netanyahu and his cabinet colleagues (except for Communications Minister Limor Livnat) let the ritual of government workers wreaking economic havoc go on unchallenged, without questioning the fundamental premise that privatization must be bad for them.

For there to be fundamental economic reform in Israel, the people must be presented with a clear choice between an economy of big government, low wages, high taxes, high inflation, and high unemployment, and an economy of streamlined government, high wages, reasonable tax rates, low inflation, and low unemployment. The Netanyahu government must paint this big picture, not just directly for the public at large, but for the weaker sectors that have the most to benefit from a transformed economy.

OLEG 97



Redeployment revisited

The people in the GMC were on their way to Tel Rumeida in Hebron. Suddenly they heard a loud boom and felt smoke pouring into the van.

Quickly they evacuated the burning vehicle as four firebombs, hurled from meters away, ignited its roof. An army escort helped extinguish the flames, after which the driver was commanded to "get back in, and keep going — fast."

"What about the terrorists who just tried to kill us?" the driver asked. The army's retort: "We can't do anything about them; this is the Palestinian-controlled side of Hebron."

This attack took place only a few hours after shots were fired at Beit Hadassah, less than a kilometer away, on the evening of Thursday, July 10, 1997 — almost exactly six months after the government signed and implemented "redeployment" — a euphemism for abandonment — of 80 percent of the city.

Has redeployment worked? Was the event described above just a "chance mishap"? What lessons can be learned half-a-year after redeployment?

A 35-page Government Press Office document sums up the results: "The PA has violated the fundamental security provisions of the Hebron accord. Rather than contain disturbances, the Palestinian Police organized riots in Hebron in March-April 1997 and June-July 1997, and failed to contain Palestinians who surged towards the Jewish Quarter." "In many cases, the PA paid youths NIS 30-50 per day for taking part in riots and attacking Israeli soldiers."

The report notes that the PA has failed to amend the Palestinian Covenant, combat terror, reduce the size of its police force and restrict its governmental activity to areas under its control.

In short, this document is a scathing admission, published on government stationery, of the complete and absolute failure of Oslo.

What did the GPO document forget to mention? Israel barely defends the Jewish homes and the one traffic artery permitted to Jews in Hebron, King David (Shubada) Street.

In the rest of Israeli-controlled Hebron, where the army continues

to be responsible, the problem has been solved in a simple manner: The area has been declared a "closed military zone." Movement of Jews is prevented by force, so much so that there is no need for any practical expression of authority or security responsibility.

So absurd is the situation that

Nowhere is the failure of Oslo more painfully obvious than Hebron, six months after the agreement

the residents of Beit Hadassah are forbidden to go down to the street literally at the foot of their homes, and Jewish Quarter residents are not permitted to buy vegetables at the store near where they live.

Arab ruffians who attack children (chiefly girls) in this area are freed after a brief detention. One Arab, convicted of obscene acts against a Jewish girl, was sentenced to eight days' imprisonment and a NIS 200 fine.

"Responsibility for the overall security of Israelis" includes the concept of hot pursuit, yet the Defense Minister and the OC central command do not implement it. All the while Oslo is violated, even with shooting incidents.

The "buffer zone article" in the Hebron agreement is one of this administration's so-called achievements. These areas were marked off by points on the map, creating a line which borders a 500- to 600-meter-wide area around H2, the city's Israeli-controlled area.

In reality, thousands of Arab rioters have crossed the "buffer zones," coming within dozens of meters of the Jewish houses. They have thrown thousands of stones entirely covering the street. In some instances, the stones have broken windows and even wounded people; yet in no case was the Palestinian Police made to implement the accord and push the riot-

ers beyond the buffer zone. Jews are prevented from entering holy places. Even going to the cave of the first Judge, Otniel ben Kenaz, 250 meters from Beit Hadassah, is impossible for Jews.

Here it should be noted that the IDF prevents Jews from visiting this site; in other words, responsibility for denying Jews access does not solely lie at the door of the Palestinian Authority.

In fact the army itself plays a considerable role in this violation of Oslo. Instead of insisting on Palestinian compliance with the accord, the Central Command prefers to amul major sections of it.

With the signing of the accord, the government decided "to preserve all the conditions, needs and imperatives for the survival, security and strengthening of the Jewish Community in Hebron."

In reality, the "strengthening" has been frozen over the past year. The government doesn't grant Jews permission to build in Hebron, not even one house.

In official government documents the Defense Ministry places responsibility for commencing building that has been approved on OC Central Command Uzi Dayan; Chief of Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, for his part, denies that the IDF has any authority either to grant building permits or to implement them. He places the responsibility directly on the defense minister.

As for Arafat, it is clear that he has no intention of fulfilling his Oslo obligations.

Israel is walking blindly down a one-way street, meeting Arab demands while ignoring promises to Jews. Day after day this administration makes fresh attempts to renew the "peace talks" and enter into final-status negotiations.

Israel must know that Arafat's understanding of final status is a Palestinian state sans Israel. That is his goal, and he will continue to strive for it.

Israel must reverse direction, stop acquiescing and learn from Oslo.

Noam Arnon is chairman of the Association for the Renewal of the Jewish Community of Hebron. He and David Wilder serve as spokesmen for the community.

Track record

MICHAEL B. OREN

Listen, and you can almost hear it — the sound of history passing the Palestinians by again.

US diplomats who, two years ago, would issue daily statements on the peace process are virtually mute, while leftist leaders who vowed to "stop the settlers" are calling on rightists to join them in stopping... the haredim.

The Palestinians have only themselves to blame. Not that Israel was a Gentleman Jim, with its quietly burgeoning settlements and ever-expanding Jerusalem. But these pale compared to the utter failure to stop terror.

Arafat and his compatriots at best looked the other way — at worst, conspired — in bus bombings and other acts that left scores of Israelis maimed or dead.

They allowed Hamas hoodlums to brandish their guns and hold mass rallies in praise of bloodshed. They named Jericho's central square after the man who planned those bombings. Arafat called him a martyr.

Few terrorists were ever detained in those remarkably porous Palestinian jails.

All this happened when Israel's previous Labor government was openly committed to a Palestinian state, and to ceding almost the entire West Bank to create it. Parts of Jerusalem, too.

It happened when the government labeled civilian casualties "victims of peace," and the purported change of the Palestine National Covenant as "one of the most significant events of the century."

No longer. Labor or Likud, it doesn't matter, there are no more "victims of peace," no more sham amendments of the PNC or bogus prison breaks, only gross violations of Oslo.

United Jerusalem is now than ever a point of national consensus — it seems one can't win an election without it — and so is territory-for-peace, though only some of the territory, not all of it.

The difference between Netanyahu's offer of 40 percent of the West Bank and Ehud

It's hard to believe, but the Palestinians have blown it again

Barak's 80 percent is not enough for a national showdown, especially as both men could easily compromise on 60 percent.

Israel's political agenda is undergoing radical revision. Ethnic divisions, economic policies, even environmental issues are all stealing the spotlight from the Arab-Israeli conflict that has held it for decades. "Right" and "left" are fast being supplanted by "secular" and "religious."

WHETHER this is good news for the Jews remains to be seen.

But one thing is certain: It's tragic for the Palestinians. Inconceivable as it might seem, they've blown it.

The world's only people to have been repeatedly offered independence — by the Peel Commission in 1937, the UN Partition of 1947, and in the 1979 Camp David Accords — the Palestinians have again failed to grab it.

The possibility of getting the peace process "back on track" has become irrelevant; the track itself has changed. Even if they were to get their state, it would likely be so limited in size and sovereignty as to be unacceptable to the Palestinians themselves. Hamas would have a heyday.

What's left for them, then? High unemployment, widespread corruption, the absence of civil rights? A Palestinian Authority so afraid of another closure that even the riots it orchestrates are puny? Pathetically, Arafat is now turning away from the Arab peace camp, from Jordan and Egypt, to the outcasts of the region: Syria, Iran, and Iraq. He goes crying to the UN, which has never advanced the peace process a millimeter, and to the EU — everywhere but to the negotiating table, where violence is a no-no.

Israeli leaders, meanwhile, can afford to indulge in yet another ministerial crisis. In America, it's been Mars, not the Middle East, making headlines.

It would take a major cataclysm — war — to return the diplomatic situation to the status quo ante of, say, 1994. But while the chances for that are not negligible, neither are they immense right now.

To all appearances, the Palestinians will have to remain in their present limbo, homeless and dispersed, until their national will is united enough, and their leadership courageous enough, to seize the next opportunity.

The writer is a Middle East historian.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE TEMPLE MOUNT

Sir, — In his letter of July 10, Ronnie Cohen asks, after describing Waqf interference in his professional tour-guide duties when displaying a sketch of the Second Temple in the Temple Mount courtyard, "I mean, whose city is this?"

This answer, as Mr. Cohen should well know if he regularly ascends the Temple Mount, is that we Israelis and Jews know it's ours by religious, historical, cultural and legal sovereign right. The Moslems claim it is theirs because of Mohammed's midnight horse flight and his ascension to Heaven, and their demographic presence turns it into an "Arab" city.

Christians would want neither of us to have it, preferring an international regime of some sort. The US and most of the rest of the world do not recognize our political administration of the city, looking for ways to alter the status quo since 1949. Remember when they fled the city, taking their embassies and consulates with them, after the adoption of Geula Cohen's Jerusalem Law?

And all of Israel's governments since 1967, uncomfortable with all the foregoing, have presumed that an acceptable compromise would be to grant the Moslem Waqf administrative control over the Temple Mount, ban any openly Jewish identification with the site (no prayer, no sketches) and sign a treaty recognizing Jordan's special historical role in the city's holy places. Even the construction of a third mosque there, altering the status quo, was allowed.

Now, Mr. Cohen, now do you know whose city this is?

YISRAEL MEDAD

SURVIVOR

Sir, — Much is written these days about the danger of serious violence erupting in the Gaza, Judea and Samaria areas under Palestinian control because Israel is not pressing on with the Oslo "Peace" Accords.

But who is preventing continuation of the "Peace" process? Certainly not the prime minister who is constantly calling upon Chairman Arafat to renew negotiations. Certainly not the American administration whose Middle East experts are constantly reminding the Palestinians that their only salvation lies in face-to-face negotiations with Israel.

So who remains? Chairman Arafat? But he blames Israel, and rightly so. Israel is to blame. But not the government. The blame lies solely with the opposition. Perennial visits to Arafat by Peres, Barak, and Ne'eman and a dozen other members of the opposition constantly assuring Arafat that Netanyahu's government is due to fall in the very near future and will be replaced by the Labor-Meretz-Arab triumvirate, coupled with newspaper prognostications of impending defeat for Netanyahu, are sufficient incentives for Arafat to stall.

What Arafat should now be told is that even if this government falls, there is no guarantee that Labor-Meretz and the Arab parties will again have a working majority, nor is there much likelihood of Barak becoming prime minister. Netanyahu has proven to be a survivor, and it is much more likely that Arafat will have to deal with him for quite some time to come.

STANLEY BROZA

DOMINICAN EMBASSY

Sir, — On July 9 you published a report regarding the possibility of closing the Israeli Embassy in the Dominican Republic. This is not the first and only time this possibility has arisen. In the past, our government received a warning from the Israeli authorities telling us that if we did not transfer our embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the Israelis would close their mission in Santo Domingo. This position was later abandoned.

When the first warning was issued, I was consulted as a private person. My opinion included expressions that I could use then, because I was not holding any official position. Today my language has to be different.

All I can say is that living under this kind of sword of Damocles is very uncomfortable. The Israel government is absolutely free to close its embassy in Santo Domingo anytime. Of course, we will be very sorry, especially now, when the Dominican Republic is enlarging its embassy in Tel Aviv with more staff.

But I want to give assurances to the Israeli people that we understand the rationale of realpolitik and whatever decision is made about this issue, it will never change the traditional feelings of Dominicans towards them, committed as we are to the idea of the existence of the State of Israel and of peace in this region.

The Dominican Republic and its friendship with Israel will both survive.

ALFONSO LOCKWARD,
Ambassador of the Dominican Republic

Shiloh.

Tel Aviv.

Tel Aviv.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On July 29, 1937, The Palestine Post reported that in the House of Commons Mr. Anthony Eden said that the approval of the League of Nations was necessary for any alteration of the terms of the Palestine Mandate.

Major-General A.D. Wavell had been appointed General Officer Commanding British Forces in Palestine and Trans-Jordan.

50 years ago: On July 29, 1947, The Palestine Post reported that three Jews, Ya'acov Weiss (23),

Meir Nakar (21), and Avshalom Haviv (20), were hanged at the Acre Central Prison fortress for their part in the raid on the same facility on May 4, 1947. All last-minute pleas for clemency on their behalf addressed to the High Commissioner by the Yishuv's leaders, including that of the Chief Rabbi, Dr. I.H. Herzog, failed.

A number of army camps were attacked. Bombs were thrown at military vehicles in Jerusalem where a mine exploded at the corner of King George and Ben-

Yehuda streets. Fire was opened at the District Commissioner's office in Jaffa Street.

The "illegal" immigrants who arrived aboard the Hagana ships The Fourteen and Return to Zion were transferred to Empire Shelter and Empire Comfort British vessels for their deportation to Cyprus.

Searches for two abducted Intelligence sergeants continued. Thirty-two Jewish families were ordered to leave their houses under Security Regulations.

Alexander Zvielli

ON CAMERA

The world of close-up

By DAVID BRAUNER

"...Rigorous close-up studies of plants, shells, leaves, time-withered trees, kelp, driftwood, eroded rocks, pelicans' wings, gnarled cypress roots, and gnarled workers' hands have become clichés of a merely photographic way of seeing."
— from Susan Sontag's *On Photography*

Philosopher Susan Sontag's pronouncement is enough to discourage any photographer from ever taking another close-up picture. The close-up syndrome she dismisses as a cliché means that any magnified shot is bound to be a copy of some earlier shot.

Be that as it may, close-up photographs are winning prizes and featuring in nature documentaries today more than ever. The sheer fascination of seeing bugs mate, the lace-work of a snowflake or the uncanny patterns of a duck's feathers is undeniable.

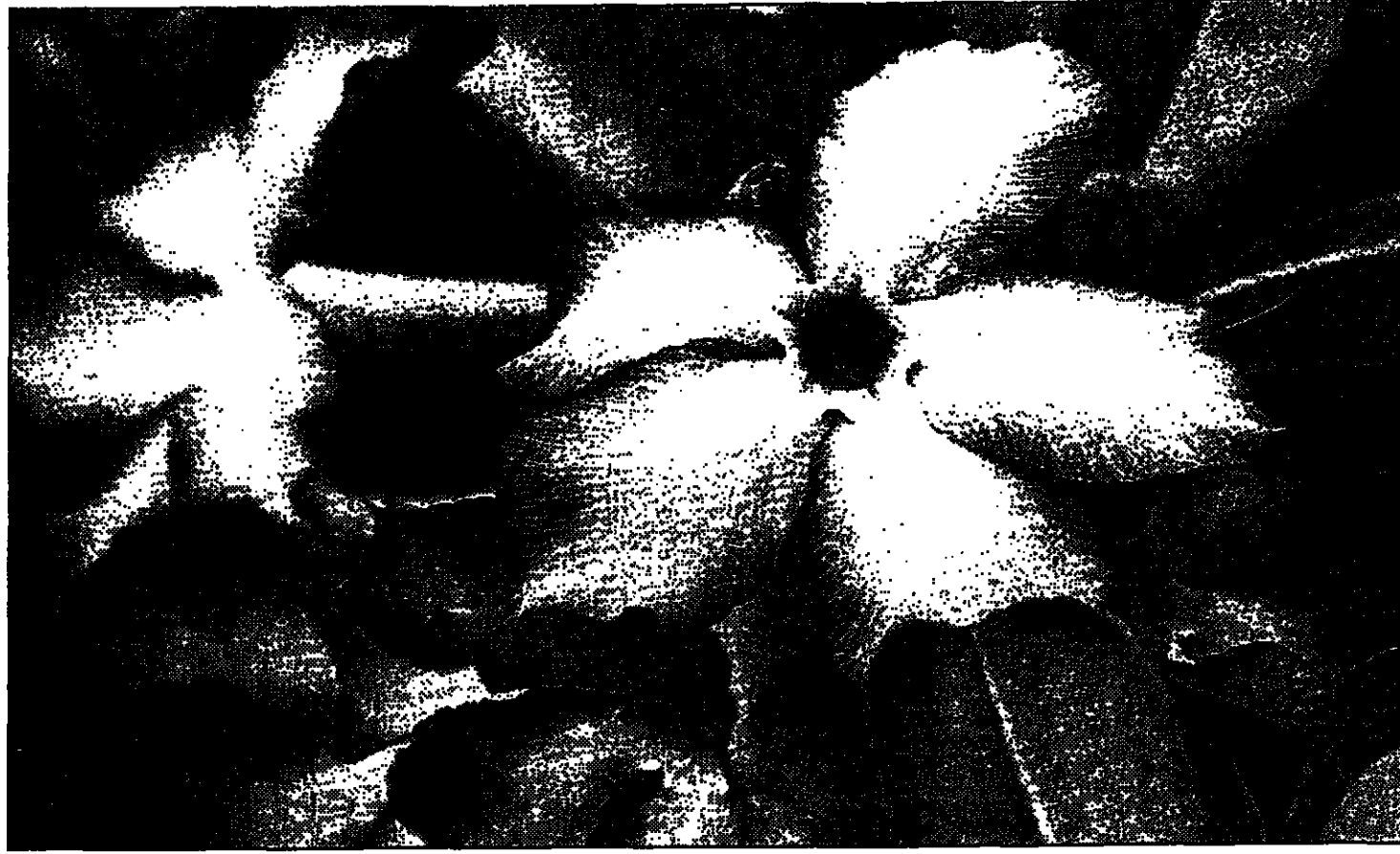
Surprising, highly magnified images, sometimes unrecognizable without explanation, grab and hold the eye. The frozen action allows the viewer time to enjoy exploring a world of life around us, which is usually too small to be seen.

By the 1840s, Englishman William Fox-Talbot, co-inventor of photography, had photographically enlarged the wings of a butterfly 17 times with the aid of a solar microscope. In the 20th century, macrophotography was boosted to a fine art by works like Paul Strand's close-ups of machine forms and Edward Weston's classic detail of a shell.

Dr. Roman Vishniac, best known for his 5,000 images of the vanished world of Polish Jewry, became one of the world's most renowned natural-science photographers in New York after 1945.

Specializing in microphotography, Vishniac once made a groundbreaking sequence of a killer wasp in flight. He used an electric-eye beam and an electronic flash that produced an exposure speed of 1/75,000 of a second to freeze the insect's wings beating at an incredible rate of 682 times a second.

A word about terminology:



Close-up study (app. 1:1 ratio) of a single flower; note the rich tones and fine detail in the petals.

(D. Brauner)

Although close-up and macrophotography are used interchangeably, strictly speaking a close-up is life-size or a ratio of 1:1, and a macro is a magnification of up to 20:1. Enlargements beyond 20:1 fall into microphotography, performed with the aid of a microscope.

Anyone who owns an SLR camera with a standard 50 mm. lens can take close-up pictures. In many ways an older manual model, regularly available on the secondhand market, makes an ideal tool. A tripod, copying stand and cable release are vital accessories but, again, can often be acquired for a reasonable sum.

In terms of the optics, the close-up photographer has several options. A macro lens, usually

55 or 105 mm., is by far the most expensive and convenient alternative. It's an absolute necessity for serious close-up work requiring top-notch results. A second choice are the many zoom lenses that come with a built-in macro setting.

A bellows, extension set or reversing ring all extend the standard lens from the camera in order to increase magnification. Moderately to very expensive, these methods have the disadvantage of decreasing the amount of light reaching the film, thereby canceling exposure automation.

For the beginner, I recommend a set of three macro filters, sometimes called supplementary lenses. For relatively low expenditure, a

may have to use a wind shield or gently attach a flower to a stake to prevent it moving in the breeze.

There is no harm in supplementing available light with a flash unit, preferably on a remote cable and held away from the camera. In black-and-white work only, I sometimes use a flash to reach into the darkened depths of a flower.

Finally, it is important to remember that close-up photography narrows the depth of field, that is, the area in sharp focus. So, always focus on the foreground and let the background disappear in a fuzzy blur.

Even if they have become something of a cliché, the novelty of close-ups never wears off.

DEAR RUTHIE

The dark side of "little white lies"

By RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie, A few months ago, my husband and I decided to cancel the cable TV, as we believed the influence of MTV and other channels to be detrimental to our daughter's development. Anticipating her violent reaction, we told her that it was temporary, until our move to

another city in September. But since life at home has been much better without cable, we have decided not to subscribe after the move. The move will be difficult enough for a 14-year-old girl as it is, but she is counting the days to have the cable back, and therefore is happy to move. I say, "Tell her now what to expect in September." My husband says, "Tell her when we move and avoid another two months of hell at home this summer." My concern is that in September, she may freak out at

the news, making the transition even more difficult.

Troubled Parents of Teenager Somewhere in Israel

Dear Troubled Parents, I am against lying to your daughter. In the first place, if you do not wish to be lied to by your daughter, you should give her the same courtesy. Secondly, your daughter will never trust a word you say after catching on to having been deceived. But the question here goes beyond whether you should tell her the truth. The decision to deny her cable TV altogether should also be examined.

You are concerned about her adjusting to moving to a new city. You are also aware that the one consolation she's been clinging to is the reinstatement of her cable TV. It would seem, then, that you are taking a great risk where relations with your daughter are concerned. Not only have you altered the household status quo out of the blue, but you are doing so in a sneaky way. Come September, she may take revenge by making friends with someone who does have cable TV, and then by spending all of her free time with that friend, out of your sight.

Placing this kind of wedge between you can have serious consequences. Before making any final decision about the TV, then, you and your husband should give thought to the emotional process which your daughter is undergoing right now. Devoid of any control over her own life, and now divested of her main outlet from that feeling of powerlessness, she responded "violently" to the disconnection of the cable. If you do not face the problems she is having right now honestly, you will be in for rougher sailing than you ever imagined. Consulting with a therapist who specializes in adolescents could be helpful.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il



HEADS N TAILS



While they may be lovable, primates require conditions most people are unable to provide in their homes. (Leora Cheskin)

Monkey business

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

I have never really understood the passion for keeping monkeys, especially since it is rare to find one in a private home that enjoys the proper facilities and care. But keep them people do, and I have received a number of letters about the problems of having monkeys as pets.

One couple writes that the young spider monkey they received about six months ago doesn't seem particularly healthy. "Its fur is scruffy although it grooms itself constantly and it has a cough."

The first problem here is the cough. Since you know nothing about the conditions the monkey was kept in before you got it, you should realize that captive primates are very susceptible to tuberculosis, and you should have it checked by your veterinarian at once. Tuberculosis is an infectious disease, so do not delay.

The scruffy hair could be a result of diet or might indicate lice or fleas. Check for fleas on the monkey's belly and thighs. Nit-louse eggs that attach themselves to the fur like tiny pearly droplets are easy to spot.

As for diet, it is a rare domestic primate that gets a proper diet. Most people think plenty of bananas is adequate fare. The spider monkey should get a wide selection of fruits, vegetables and nuts every day. Give it some hard-boiled eggs and a small portion of cooked rice with bits of cooked chicken, sort of a pituit. And don't forget, if the monkey

is still growing, it is definitely a juvenile and needs vitamins A plus D and some calcium. Both are available in pharmacies and pet shops.

Another reader has a vervet monkey and complains that it bites and soils the house. As for the last complaint, monkeys do not take easily to toilet training and a diaper is advisable when they are out of their cage. As for biting, any monkey will bite if frightened or annoyed. This is why they are such undesirable pets, even for adults.

Most home-kept primates are not warm enough in winter. Their body mass is extremely small in comparison with their body surface and they give off excess heat rapidly. They do better in summer, but need warm moist air, not *hamsin* conditions with low humidity. They are, after all, tropical animals and they need a controlled climate. Few people can provide this in the home. Nor can most people, however well-intentioned, provide a monkey with the amount of living space it needs. Also, monkeys are curious and need a constant supply of things to interest and entertain them. They need to explore and investigate objects to be content, particularly since most of them are like prisoners that have been condemned to a lifetime of solitary confinement. My advice to readers is to keep a domestic animal other than a monkey, but if you do have one as a pet, then try at least to give it what it needs to have a reasonably comfortable captivity.

Not Page One

God's diner or Heaven's kitchen

By Sam Orbaum

So hungry you could eat a horse? Have I got a restaurant for you.

Yeshurun offers both horse and bear on the menu. And dessert is free. As you might expect this place is near Tel Aviv's trendy Sheinkin Street, where no cuisine is too new, too exotic, too outrageous.

To get to Yeshurun from Sheinkin you make a left and a right, and keep going until you come to another world.

Yeshurun, on Mazeh Street between Allenby and a human landmark known as the Volvo Beggar, is as ultra-anti-Sheinkin as any restaurant can be.

For one thing, the kitchen serves up such retro-chic delicacies as kreplach, kugel and kishke; if you ask to taste the horse you'll get horseradish (the menu-writer ran out of space), and the bear is, of course, a choice of Maccabee or Goldstar.

Nothing much has changed since Yeshurun first opened on the same location in 1962 — except that the guy behind the cash is not 35 years old anymore: Zusha is now 70, with a full white beard that looks like it's been growing there for at least 85 years.

His appearance startles and excites some people, for he looks remarkably like a thinner version of the

Even a place like this has to be discerning. "Of course I give them food," he says. "It's not my food, it belongs to the Holy One, Blessed Be He."

Zusha, who immigrated from Russia 50 years ago, is charitable beyond the symbolic 10-agora coins. Twenty years ago, he donated the money to build Beit Menachem, the synagogue at Kfar Habad. Well, sort of. "Not true, I didn't give the money. The Holy One, Blessed Be He, gave the money. Through me."

I FIGURED I'd make like Haim Shapiro and invite a companion (my mother, who works down the street) to sample the fare.

The food may be provided by The Holy One, Blessed Be He, but it's served up by Allah — yup, that's her name — a zaftig old Russian waitress with a smear of lipstick and a blue and pink striped apron.

And the menu? Don't ask. Hambur. Lung. Gulsh. Choped liver. Boiled meat. Potato fancabe (pancake). And of course the horse. We were particularly entranced by "besserts" such as waterme and cpmot appeles.

I say "don't ask," because that's what Allah said after we'd spent 20 minutes trying to choose. "Never mind the menu," she said,

Yeshurun ... is as ultra-anti-Sheinkin as any restaurant can be. For one thing, the kitchen serves up such retro-chic delicacies as kreplach, kugel and kishke.

Lubavitcher Rebbe, who may or may not be returning as the Messiah, but would probably not reveal himself behind a cash register.

"Yeah, lots of people say I look like him," Zusha says. You can judge for yourself: there are three photos of the rebbe in the window — or they could be photos of Zusha: it's hard to tell.

You can't mistake the philosophy of Zusha's establishment. There's a sign over the door that reads, in Hebrew, "We prepared! We prepared! We prepared! For the coming of the Moshiah. He's coming! He's coming! He's coming!"

That sign lures a curious mix of unexpecteds, from smart businessmen to beggars, overdressed harodim to underdressed seculars. And neighborhood kids who know about Zusha's racket.

Yeah, this is one for the vice squad: kids come in, present themselves to Zusha, and by uttering the password — a brocha — Zusha slips 'em a suspicious substance: a plastic vial of frozen raspberry slush. (They have to pay for it, of course: he gives them a 10-agora coin which they place in the pushke box next to the cash. Sort of a slush fund.)

One look at these kids tells you this may be their only contact with religion.

Zusha's motive is obvious: he equates sweetness with prayer, promotes charity (even if he's the one donating) and "so they should know there's a God in the world. That will help the Moshiah come sooner."

The youngsters are typically dressed in Power Rangers or Batman T-shirts. Many of them, obviously Zusha's regulars, know the prayer by heart. Some get their just desserts by mumbling a version of the Shema I'd never heard before: "Shema Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Ehad Yesh Mastik?"

It's Zusha's mission in life, and he loves it. The benign smile that peeks through his beard at clients is not satisfaction at the thought of profit-making, but joy that he's bringing yiddishkeit and the godless together. A punkish lad with a red tattoo, a beach bum with a straw hat, a fat, greasy man with dreadlocks — the Tel Aviv parade comes and goes through Zusha's door.

Mind you, his smile froze and vanished when a woman entered wearing hotpants and a halter. He did serve her, but with his eyes at his feet. I asked him about it. "What, I should throw her out? She'll go somewhere else and eat tref. So I won't look at her, and she'll eat kosher."

Neighborhood snorrrers don't go hungry: Zusha feeds them, but won't let them sit in the restaurant.

"we don't have everything." It turns out that Allah is the menu. "Try the foot jelly," she suggested brightly. Apparently she always pushes the foot jelly. We declined. "You like choolint?" Maybe it was the way she pronounced it: we couldn't resist. Eventually we all agreed that a bit of this, a bit of that, would be best.

My companion pronounced the vegetable soup exceptional. "Full of vegetables," she enthused. I made a note of that.

My kreplach arrived swimming in a puddle of watery grease, just how I like it. Almost worth making a brocha for.

The bellybutton stew — it sounds better the way Allah said it, "pupik-lach" — is best enjoyed, as any gourmand knows, with a mound of mashed potatoes, which nicely offsets the rubbery umbilicus. Our navels were perfectly bouncy, but tended to wiggle on the fork, splashing gravy everywhere.

The kasha was wet, as great kasha should be, and we got through it oohing and aahing, whereupon my date ripped into the kishke. If you don't mind eating something that's been shopped into an intestine, I can highly recommend Zusha's kishke.

The tzimmes tasted, well, goyish: rather too carrot, too al dente, to my liking. "Not like your Momma used to make," my companion noted.

The plates kept coming: a slab of schnitzel a l'anglaise, goulash that would make a cow proud, and a pile of red stuff I couldn't identify. Zusha himself came over to reveal the secret: it's called gvetsh — red pepper, carrot, onion, tomato, zucchini and celery simmered together. (It was only then that I noticed that Zusha's white shirt had a gvetsh stain, like an advertisement.)

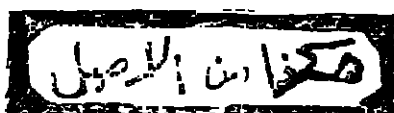
Allah came at us. "Finish?" "Oy," my companion replied, "how much can a person eat?" Allah surveyed the carnage on our table and, apparently giving thought to all the world's starving people, concurred.

"You don't want coffee, you had enough," she told us. But Zusha insisted I try the free dessert. He beckoned me to the cash, grinned, gave me a not-so-clean kippa from the pile (my companion insisted I turn it inside out, "because of lice"), nodded as I chanted the brocha, and handed me a frozen slush, on the house.

For all that, I wrote out a check for only 90 shekels, which I assumed Zusha would later endorse to "The Holy One, Blessed Be He."

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REVIEWS

in brief

Concert: Classical

The IPO treated the audience to an exotic, dramatic fairy tale - *Turandot*. Leona Mitchell's Turandot was a vulnerable and long-suffering woman, injured by this world's injustice and secretly yearning for love. Mitchell's strong, somewhat matt soprano with a mezzo tinge suited this portrayal perfectly.

Undisguised haired of men ringing in Audrey Stottler's freezing soprano sent chills down your spine. But her Turandot melted after Calaf's kiss. Calaf, played by Vladimir Bogachov, was quite heroic, while bel-canto tenor Gegam Grigorian was a lyrical Prince. Soprano Lucia Mazzaria made a tender Liu; Angela Maria Blas's little slave-girl was all devotion and unrequited love.

Vladimir Braun portrayed, with his round and solid bass-baritone, a scary Mandarin; soft tenor Sami Bechar (Emperor Altoum) and bass Andrea Silvestrelli (Timur) were in good form. Among the grotesque Ping-Pong trio, baritone Angelo Vecchia was vocally the most impressive. The vigorous Maggio Musicale Choir sounded like an ensemble of good Italian strings, expressing minute changes in the crowd's mood.

The orchestra played flawlessly: sumptuous, powerful but never bombastic or forced. All this was due to maestro Zubin Mehta who, conducting without a score, created a festive reading of Puccini's opus. A glorious finale to the season. *Maxim Reider*

Concert: Pop

The patio of Jerusalem's Beit Shmuel served as a comfortable venue for Ehad Banai and his band, the Refugees, on Saturday night. "Yotzeh La'or" from the album *In a Little While* was a fitting opening song, combining Banai's signature mix of instruments including bongos, accordion, harmonica, guitars, drums, and keyboard. Guest musician Nitzan Chen nearly stole the show with his impressive violin playing. But the multi-talented Banai's strong voice, masterful lyrics and artistic instrumentation ensured his place in the spotlight as he alternated between slow, intimate songs and ones with more pizzazz. "Jamaly Furush" had the entire house clapping, swaying, dancing and singing along. *Viva Press*

Theater

With *Hazona Mi'Ohio* ("The Whore from Ohio"), his recently premiered one-act, Haneoch Levin, after a long repertoire of bitter black satire, changes moral key and spiritual color. His play is an elegiac miniature on the primacy of hope, love and bonding over human degradation and alienation.

The change is not immediately apparent. The same as ever are his squalid milieu, bedraggled detritus of life's failure, salacious idiom, and uninhibited obscenities that provoke with callous and calculated crudity.

The protagonists - two threadbare beggars and an ugly, ancient whore - are thrown together on the dunghill of existence. The action consists largely of the dreams and fantasies by means of which they attempt to transcend their natural inheritance of abasement. But out of this, Levin's new tone and trend develop slowly. In a moving ending, these beleaguered lives and beggared hopes are touched with a ray of happiness in an epiphany of spontaneous altruistic love.

Getta Luce as Brunoatzki the hard-hearted whore, dissolves in a redemptive burst of affection for her client, an impotent old beggar, that is the lyrical peak of the play. Rami Baruch, the latter's lachrymose son, Hoymar, strangled in a mask of soundless sobs, gives a touching performance that brings out the best in this sensitive actor. The most meticulously achieved role, Hoybeiter, is saved for Gaby Amrani. His sexually ungratified septuagenarian is a masterpiece of combined whimsy, pathos, humor and faith.

An appropriately austere decor enjoys relief and an inspiring luminosity from the novel lighting design of the brilliant Bambi (Avi-Yona Bueno). *Naomi Doukai*

Dance

The Bat-Dor Dance Company's program at the Noga Theater, Jaffa, included three works: *Mare Nostrum* by Italian choreographer Luciano Cannito (premiere); *Gardenias For Billie* by Randy Ducano of the US (premiere); and a revival of *Temperata* by Ora Dror.

Mare Nostrum provides ample opportunity for some serious dancing, but thematically it is an impossible hodgepodge of unrelated styles that follows a variety of musical inspiration from Tecano to Hassidic and then some.

In contrast, Duncan's bluesy *Gardenias* draws from Billie Holiday's songs that pave the way to an atmosphere of smoke-filled clubs. He relies on swaying swinging hips, typical of the music halls turned Broadway style, that his previous company of Chicago did so well; but for most Bat-Dor dancers it is a foreign language. They go through the motions, apparently enjoying themselves, but they lack the mellowness and nonchalance that are the crucial ingredients. So the most pleasing work was that of Ora Dror, who works for the company and knows the dancers' capabilities better than most. The moderate *Temperata* flows well in the conservative groove of the modern-dance field. *Ora Brafman*



H15 is one of many big-name local acts - including Dana International, Nona, Ice 9, Zehava Ben and Ethnix - to star at the Luna Park.

A festival for groovy teens

By AMY KLEIN

It's just what local youngsters need this summer: another music festival. But this one promises to be different from the others.

The eight-night-long Youth Festival opens this Saturday evening at the Luna Park at the Tel Aviv Exhibition Grounds. The NIS 60 ticket admits anyone to the festival for all that evening's performances and events. (The festival runs nightly from 5 p.m. to midnight.) Teen-pleaser performers include Dana International, Nona, Ice 9,

H15, Zehava Ben and Ethnix on the main stage, with performances by youth bands on smaller stages.

In addition to the live performances, there will be a "special" disco with lasers, smoke and foam (a new style of partying where the dance floor is filled with - you guessed it - shaving cream). The disco itself will be held inside a giant Coca-Cola balloon. DJs include notables like Charlie Buzaglo (from the Family Channel's *On The Town* and from Radio 3) and Ofir Nahshon, also from Radio 3.

Other summer night treats include a fashion show by Crocker, make-up and hairdo booths and a nightly barrage of presents dropped from the sky.

Oddly, a special hall will be open for free surfing on the Internet (sponsored by Netvision).

But the best part of the festival seems to be the fact that all the rides in the amusement and water park will be open, and an extra NIS 10 gains you entrance to the parks (a regular ticket to the amusement parks costs NIS 25). There are no festival activities during the day.

The first 100 people to arrive will get free

entrance for the evening, and the first 50 on subsequent evenings who know the "secret password" (which will be broadcast on the previous day) will also gain free entry.

The festival organizers anticipate about 50,000 people at the festival over the week. The park's capacity is for 15,000. There will be at least 100 security people per night.

The motto of this hastily-planned festival is "Everything that's good for the kids is good for the Youth Festival." With junk food, music, discos - all past youngsters' bedtime - that depends on who you're asking.

A cantor at the Knesset

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Cantor Joseph Malovany will give a very special command performance at the Knesset this afternoon. The Israeli-born cantor, who for the last 25 years has been the chief cantor of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue in New York, and before that officiated as a cantor in England and South Africa immediately after completing his military service as a conductor of the IDF Rabbinate Choir, will perform his own new composition with a text from the Declaration of Independence.

As the work is performed between the 17th of Tamuz and the 9th of Av, a time when Orthodox Jews do not listen to music, "there could be no instrumentation whatsoever. So I wrote music for a cantor and a men's choir. I took the sections from the Declaration of Independence that talk about the Jewish aspect of the State of Israel."

Malovany, who lives in New



Malovany: Inspired by the Declaration of Independence

York, comes here at least four times a year. For him "the State of Israel is an act of God irrelevant to what government it has."

"The music for the new opus, which will later on be performed by Malovany in other parts of the world and eventually with his own orchestral arrangement which he will soon be completing, "is based on liturgical motifs of the Eastern and Western European Jews with some aspects of Sephardi melodies. As far as I know this is the first time that anyone has set to music the actual words of the Declaration of Independence, and then to play it in the Knesset, of all places, is really exciting and I am most proud of it."

Aside from Malovany's work at his synagogue, he is a professor at New York's Yeshiva University and he performs all over the world in programs combining cantorial and classical music. "I pride myself on taking cantorial music out of the synagogue and into the symphony-orchestra world."

And while his own concerts include operatic arias as well, Malovany himself has made a conscious decision to avoid singing opera on the stage. "I could have gone into opera. I was invited many times to audition but I cannot go on stage and kiss the prima donna; as a cantor it is just not done."

Malovany also has a school for cantors in Moscow. "This is my contribution to the growing Jewish life and awareness in Russia."

How does he manage all these eclectic globetrotting activities? "When you are busy you find time for everything. I organize and pace myself very carefully both vocally and mentally, and in this way I can do anything I want and need."

In concert tours all over the world, Malovany has recently returned to his initial musical love: conducting. "Anyone who invites me has to accept me as a conductor for one piece. I usually do the overture to Verdi's *La forza del destino* ["The Force of Destiny"]. It is a very symbolic title for my whole life."

IN TUNE

Rock 'n' roll gets real

By DAVID BRINN

Rustic and raw, sweet and twangy, melancholy and celebratory. It's all there in glorious display on Wilco's *Being There*.

Although released in the US at the end of 1996, the sprawling two-disc CD has been issued here only this month. And it's about time. In recent memory, no record takes on so many musical and lyrical themes and expresses them so thoughtfully and sincerely, while keeping your foot tapping.

Formed from the ashes of the American independent legend Uncle Tupelo, Wilco's driving force is songwriter and singer/guitarist Jeff Tweedy. Not since Paul Westerberg's heyday in The Replacements has such a singularly talented American songwriter



Wilco's country songs evoke images of dusty ghost towns.

BEING THERE

Wilco (Red Artz)

TOTAL DEF JAM - THE DEFINITIVE COLLECTION

Various artists (Helicon)

RESTLESS HEART

David Coverdale & Whitesnakes (NMC)

emerged, and with *Being There*, those talents have blossomed.

Labeled by categories, for want of a better term, as country rock, Wilco's breadth is dazzling and reaches far beyond those confines. It's true that at times, the band is a dead ringer for the Gram Parsons-era Flying Burrito Brothers. There are lazy country songs so awash in pedal steel and dusty ghost towns, that you almost need to be staring down a pitcher of beer in a saloon to listen to them.

However, that's only one facet of the dazzling band. Rock 'n' roll purists at heart, Wilco takes the riffs that everyone from the Stones to Creedence to the Georgia Satellites built their careers on and turns them upside down to create its own brand of rootsy rock 'n' roll road song.

The beauty is how fresh and exciting it sounds, despite its well-worn path. "Misunderstood," the album's opening track, is a perfect fusion of music and lyrics capturing a nervous breakdown set to music.

Eschewing studio slickness, the band plays rough and ready, although they can also make it sweet and soulful at the switch of a button. Tweedy's conversational vernacular and timbre, without a hint of rock bravado, is refreshing and unassuming. This is as real as rock 'n' roll gets.

DEF Jam Records is the story of how two NYU students turned rap music into a multimillion-dollar empire that shows no sign of abate-

ing. Indeed, in the tension-filled 1980s, when relations between New York's black and Jewish communities were at an all-time low, Def Jam's emergence in a developing lucrative music industry was highlighted by the business collaboration between such people as Russell Simmons and Rashad Smith with Rick Rubin, Adam Horowitz and Bill Adler.

While this compilation makes no distinction between rap and hip hop, the former being mostly hard-hitting lyrics with a bare rhythm track in the background, while the latter is more rhythmic and musical, the listener quickly discerns which is which.

There is a positive rhythmic quality to "This Is How We Do It" by Montell Jordan, though Public Enemy's "Don't Believe the Hype" is like having a cavity filled! Jordan & Slick Rick's "I Like" is infectious, to the point that it was difficult not to get up and get funky!

Many of the selections, both rap and hip-hop, lift components of many successful standard rock hits and incorporate them into the new, usually heavily black slang voiceover, such as Warren G. taking from Michael McDonald's "I Keep

Forgetting." The glaring exception is the Beastie Boys, whose rap melange "You Gotta Fight for Your Right To Party" traces directly to their punk roots.

DAVID Coverdale joined Deep Purple in 1974, trying to breathe some life into that rock dinosaur. After a few solo efforts, Coverdale formed Whitesnake in 1977, but over the years only the name and Coverdale remained the same, the group's lineup changing with the seasons, and its heavy metal music becoming more anonymous.

The opening track "Don't Fade Away" on Whitesnakes' new disc, *Restless Heart*, is almost a plea by an old rocker for a little respect and consideration (a.k.a. this album). The title track has some redeeming rock qualities, and Coverdale even gets into some heavy metal reminiscent of Deep Purple in "Crying."

A couple of delightful ballads crescendo well, and the last two tracks, "Take Me Back Again" and "Woman Trouble: Blues," are inspired blues rockers reminiscent of Led Zeppelin, not surprising given Coverdale's work in the early 1990s with Jimmy Page. Not as bad as it could have been.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON WEEK CHARTS		ARTIST	TITLE
#1	NEW!	EVYATAR BANAI	EVYATAR BANAI
#2	2	V/A	HITMAN 8
#3	1	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	KOL MA SHETIRTI
#4	16	V/A	SUMMER FIESTA 2 COLLECTION
#5	9	RITA	DI HOUSE ATTACK
#6	18	V/A	LIVE
#7	4	YEHUDA POLIKER	FAT OF THE LAND
#8	5	PRODIGY	NOW 37
#9	13	V/A	WITHOUT YOU
#10	10	EYAL GOLAN	NESHUKA LA DOD
#11	3	TEA PACKS	SPACE JAM
#12	6	'OST	COLLECTION
#13	8	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	TWO
#14	14	SHLOMO ARTZ	BLOOD ON THE
#15	11	MICHAEL JACKSON	

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הכרזת המלחמה

List confirms Swiss ignored post-war accord with Allies

1946 agreement committed Bern to hand over all German booty, David E. Sanger reports

WASHINGTON (NY Times) — When Switzerland's bankers finally broke a half-century of silence last week and published a list of accounts dormant since the day World War II ended in Europe, they hoped that it would show the world that they were now serious about making amends to Holocaust survivors and their heirs.

Their reluctant breach of traditional Swiss banking secrecy may yet accomplish that goal. After two years of relentless criticism, the bankers were praised last week for finally putting some energy into the search for accounts that were "lost" after the war.

But as the reluctant bankers feared, that same list already is raising a host of new questions, not only about why the banks kept Holocaust victims from finding their assets for so long, but why they helped protect the Nazis even after the war was long over.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles already has identified a handful of accounts on the list that probably belonged to Nazi leaders and collaborators. That discovery is hardly surprising. But for the first time, investigators now have virtually irrefutable evi-

dence, drawn from the banks' own archives, that Switzerland knowingly violated its agreement in 1946 to turn over much of Germany's booty to the Allies.

That agreement, called the Washington Accord, was signed long after the Swiss could claim that they had no other choice but to provide banking services for the Nazis because they were surrounded by hostile powers.

The accord required that the banks comb through their accounts and their safe-deposit boxes, find all assets belonging to Germans living in Germany during the war, liquidate them, and turn over half the proceeds to the Allied powers to help resettle war refugees, including the Jews.

Last week's list, however, included scores of accounts in which the last known address of the depositor was in Germany. Clearly those accounts would not exist today had the Swiss fulfilled their obligations.

"Of course we knew the Swiss were not complying with the agreement, and that was one of their

most deplorable actions in the years after the war ended," said Seymour Rubin, an American negotiator of the 1946 accord, who has helped investigators reconstruct the murky records of those events. "But until a few days ago, we never actually saw the proof — the accounts that give the last known address of the depositors as Germany. If the Swiss had turned over this list when they should have, they wouldn't have this problem today."

In Switzerland, both officials and knowledgeable financial industry executives say the questions raised by the publication of the list of dormant accounts was one of the reasons the bankers were reluctant to release it.

"This proves the adage that no good deed goes unpunished," said Christoph Meier, a younger spokesman for the Swiss Bankers' Association who was brought in to make the point that a new generation in Switzerland was ready to face up to the mistakes of their fathers and grandfathers.

"We knew that the list would

raise some other issues, many of them unpleasant," Meier said. "But we had no choice. We had to publish the list and shed light, and we are doing the right thing."

The banks realize, though, that this list will spur demands for more detail. Investigators already suspect that many of the names on the list are false, set up by Nazis attempting to hide assets as the Third Reich fell. And it provides only a glimpse of the extent of Switzerland's dealings with Germany.

Excluded are any accounts in which activity took place after May 9, 1945, the day after Germany's surrender took effect. Any deposits, withdrawals, or inquiries that occurred afterward — including actions by Nazis attempting to escape capture or fleeing to South America — were not included.

Nonetheless, the Wiesenthal Center's first review of the dormant accounts list revealed accounts that it suspects belonged to the chairman of I.G. Farben, the maker of the poison gas used in the concentration camps, which

moved many of its assets to Switzerland after it became clear that Germany would lose.

It also found an account that probably belonged to the wife of Ernst Kaltenbrunner, a Nazi SS official, and another that belonged to an aide to Adolf Eichmann. There were also accounts that appeared to have belonged to art smugglers and gold runners. The center has asked the banks for more information.

For the Clinton administration, the revelations of the German accounts also pose a modern-day policy problem that the State Department appears eager to avoid. Before it published a report in May, called "US and Allied Efforts to Recover Stolen or Hidden by Germany During World War II," officials debated whether Switzerland should be forced to abide by its agreement 50 years later.

The report concluded that "the Swiss had no intention of ever implementing" the 1946 agreement. But the reaction to the report in Switzerland was so intense and so negative that US President Bill Clinton made a conciliatory call to the president of the Swiss Federation.

Deaf-mute not better off in Mexico

By MARK FINEMAN

MEXICO CITY (LA Times) — As they sat in their squalid home here last week, Guadalupe Muniz Rodriguez's parents shook their heads over what they said was the most perplexing, unanswered question after their daughter's 14-month ordeal.

Why, even after New York City police rescued Muniz — along with 56 other deaf and speech-impaired Mexican migrants — from servitude in a trinket-selling ring that forced them to live dozens to a room in a small Queens apartment, would she and the others tell Mexican authorities that they still don't want to return home? The answer, Jose Badillo Huerta and other advocates here said, lies in Mexican society. They say it has little tolerance and offers few opportunities for people like Muniz, 20.

When asked to describe attitudes here toward the deaf, blind, and speech-impaired, Badillo — who started Mexico City's first private school for the deaf 17 years ago — replied: "It's deplorable. Why don't these deaf and speech-impaired want to go back to Mexico? Because there's nothing for them here. Because there, in the United States, they have everything they don't have here. There, they have food. There, they have a job. There, they have some understanding. It's a horrible life for them here, but it's even more horrible here."

No matter how bad their lives were in New York, where police say the Mexicans worked 18-hour days selling key chains on subways, Badillo said it is even worse here in their native land. In this metropolis of more than 20 million, where life can be hard and unemployment high enough even among those without disabilities, Badillo and other advocates say, neither the government nor society — not even their families — have much to offer those who cannot see or hear or walk.

There are only a handful of wheelchair ramps in Mexico. Braille signs are nonexistent in

public places. Translators who know Spanish sign language are few. And even the closest family members treat deaf or blind relatives with shame, Badillo said.

The problem, he said, begins at home. "The mentality of parents now is that they just hide them under the rug," he said. "If a doctor or a public official has a deaf child, it just isn't possible to show it. For example, there is a very famous Mexican comedian who had a deaf brother, but he never let anyone know it. He gave him financial assistance, but it was like saying, 'Shut up and go over there.'"

There are some government schools for the blind and deaf, but they are few and underfunded. Badillo's National School for the Deaf and Mute offers free tuition for the needy. But the private Silent Friends Group that funds it can only afford facilities for 40 students at a time.

Change, Badillo said, also must begin at home: "The parents must be brave enough to stand before society and the government and demand, 'This is my child, so respect him. I'm not asking, I'm demanding that justice is done. He is a human being. He is just like any other Mexican citizen. And there are internationally accepted rights he should have.' The parents' mentality must be that they are proud of their child."

For many families here with disabled youngsters, however, life is not just about standing up for their children. It is a bigger, more basic struggle with overwhelming poverty.

What Muniz left behind in Mexico City's impoverished Izcalco neighborhood is a tin roof over four rooms of crumbling, cheap concrete. This is home for 12 members of her extended family. There is no plumbing. Meals are cooked over an outdoor fire in a tiny courtyard.

Muniz's parents insisted that they are proud of her and that they had kept her home not out of shame but because there were no opportunities for her beyond the family's ramshackle front door.

H. Humphrey III seeks role in tobacco-war

By BARRY MEIER

MINNEAPOLIS (NY Times) — Earlier this month, trucks pulled up to a warehouse here already swollen with cigarette company records and unloaded more than 200,000 documents that may represent the tobacco industry's best-kept secrets and its biggest vulnerability.

The new documents have been seen by only a handful of people who are legally barred from speaking about them. But lawyers for the state of Minnesota, which is suing the tobacco industry, claim that the documents, which only have been disclosed to them in summary form, contain evidence of a decades-long conspiracy by cigarette makers and their lawyers to suppress evidence and deceive the public about the dangers of smoking.

In the wake of smoking-related lawsuits filed by states in recent years, Minnesota can claim two distinctions. In the talks leading to last month's \$368.5 billion tobacco settlement proposal, its attorney general, Hubert H. Humphrey III, emerged as the plan's principal opponent. After losing that round, Humphrey seized on a unique aspect of Minnesota's case — no other state has plucked the padlocked files of the tobacco companies with such intensity and single-mindedness.

Two weeks ago, Humphrey, in an effort to influence the congressional debate over the proposal, urged the Senate Judiciary Committee to subpoena key records from his state's case so that Congress could review them as it considers turning the proposal into legislation.

"I want Congress to know the facts to the greatest extent possible before a bargain is made with the American people," Humphrey said in an interview.

Critics of Humphrey, who is running for governor, see his proposal as little more than political grandstanding and a continuation of the obstructionist role that he played during settlement talks. But his suggestion has not fallen on deaf ears.

Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, the Judiciary Committee's ranking Republican, and Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, its ranking Democrat, have said they want to

see the most important Minnesota documents. And even those involved in crafting the plan, like Stanley Chesley, a class-action plaintiffs' lawyer, have recently scrambled to provide some 200 selected industry documents to committee members.

Under the proposed settlement, cigarette companies would be required to disclose health-related documents except those which they claim involve trade secrets or are protected by attorney-client privilege. But the comments of Humphrey have broadened the debate from criticisms of the records-disclosure provision to larger questions about which industry documents Congress should have as it weighs the monetary value and public health benefits of the agreement.

Recently, for example, Leahy said he could not back a settlement that provided cigarette producers with immunity against punitive damages and class-action lawsuits, as the proposed settlement would, unless they reveal everything they know about their products' dangers.

"I offer one simple and direct principle to guide us," Leahy said at a recent Judiciary Committee hearing. "No immunity without full disclosure."

Industry officials and others involved in the accord said demands for document disclosure are unrealistic. Tobacco companies, they said, must shield some documents because of future lawsuits. And one industry lawyer said new documents suggesting deceptive activity by tobacco companies would not produce revelations but would only reinforce existing public opinion.

Whatever the case, the breadth of industry documents collected by lawyers for Robins, Kaplan, Miller and Ciresi, a firm here that represents the state and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, is unrivaled in the history of tobacco litigation. For example, in all previous smoking-related lawsuits, Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp., a subsidiary of BAT Industries PLC, produced about 5,000 records, said David Bernick, a company lawyer. But since the start of the Minnesota case in 1994, the cigarette maker has disclosed four million pages of documents.

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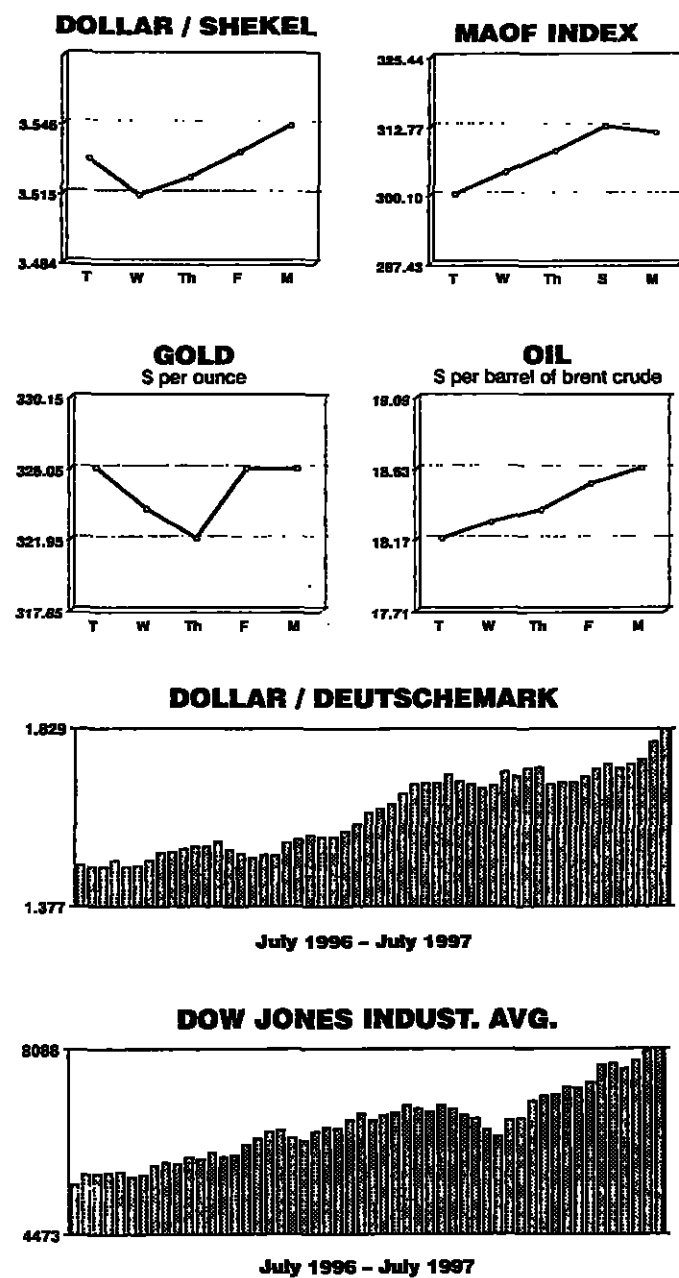
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MARKETS

in brief



Amman stock market turnover up 29%

AMMAN (AP) - Turnover on Jordan's stock exchange increased 29.6 percent to 136 million Jordanian dinars (\$191 m.) in the first half of the year as compared to the same period in 1996.

The general share prices index increased 5.2 points, or 3.4% over 1996. The index is based on 60 major companies with paid-in capital of 3.563 billion dinars (\$5.018 b.).

Broker Ihsan Naasan said Sunday that legislation removing a 50% ceiling on equity shares for non-Jordanians helped boost turnover. Some 81.4 million shares were traded in the six months, a 24.5 percent increase over the same period last year.

Livnat aide: Merrill Lynch deal could have been handled better

By DAVID HARRIS

The sale of 12.4 percent of the shares in Bezeq to US investment house Merrill Lynch & Co. was good for the company, but the process of discussing it with the workers was "not carried out correctly, or at the right time," Communications Ministry Director-General Daniel Rosenne told the Knesset Economics Committee yesterday.

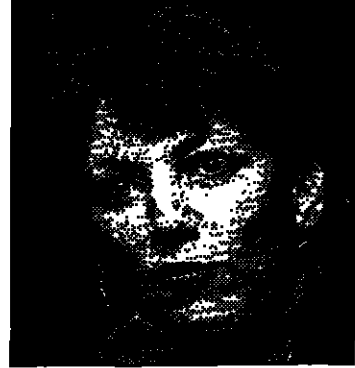
Bezeq employees, who claim they were not consulted about the sale two weeks ago, staged a strike that wreaked havoc to Israel's business sector.

If no compromise is found by Thursday in the ongoing dispute over the funding of workers' redundancy compensation, strike

action will resume, warned workers' committee representative Shlomo Ofir.

New Knesset Economics Committee chairman Avi Yehzekel (Labor) promised that during the course of the next week he will meet with senior management at Bezeq to try to ensure that workers' rights will not be affected following privatization. However, Government Companies Authority director-general Tzipi Livnat maintained that Bezeq workers' fears of redundancies and a lack of funding for compensation are not linked to the company's privatization, but rather its internal reorganization.

There was no attempt to prevent Communications Minister Limor Livnat from being involved in the decision to sell the Bezeq shares,



Livnat: When was she told?



Livni: I didn't bar Livnat

claimed Livni and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's economics adviser Moshe Leon.

The two were answering questions from Yehzekel, who suggested Livnat was upset that she was asked

to agree to the sale only minutes before the deal had to be approved. "Whoever could have prevented the deal going ahead had enough time to do so, not just reactively," said Leon.

"I don't get involved in politics and neither will the authority as long as I am in charge," said Livni, who explained the chain of events that led to the sale, and which required an immediate decision. Both Livnat and Netanyahu were fully aware of the situation before the deal was sealed, added Livni.

Thirteen institutions were approached to purchase shares in Bezeq, and six expressed interest, before senior government officials short-listed three and then decided on Merrill Lynch.



South East Asian powwow

Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) foreign ministers and their dialogue partners meet for ASEAN's Post-Ministerial Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, yesterday. The ministers met to discuss regional and international issues ranging from economic cooperation to the fight against drugs and terrorism.

Central bank leaves rates unchanged

By Jerusalem Post Staff

There will be no change in the Bank of Israel's key lending rate in August, the central bank announced yesterday.

The bank cut its interest rate by 1.2 percent to 1.7% in mid-June, as a result of the government's agreement to expand the exchange-rate bands.

It is with this and other changes in mind that Governor Jacob Frenkel and his senior staff decided not to make a change again this month, according to a statement from the bank.

The other major consideration was the sharp increase in prices last month - the consumer price index increased a far-higher-than-expected 1.1%, with the 12-month total standing at 8.5% in June.

The Bank of Israel once again called on the government to achieve its 1997 self-imposed inflation target of 7% to 10%. Additionally, the bank urged the government to set its 1998 target as soon as possible.

The government decided last year it would do so by the end of June, but now says it will only set a rate once it has agreed next year's budget, either at the end of August or early in September.

The eventual aim, agreed between the government and bank, is that inflation will be at a similar rate to that of countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, where inflation currently averages just over 4%.

It is possible there will be a change in interest rates in September, a bank official said last night. To some extent this depends on the performance of the CPI, in which there may be a downward turn, as a natural reaction last month's figure.

The bank also rejected yesterday the argument that the high index was a reflection of the depreciation in the shekel immediately after the exchange rate mechanism alterations.

The key housing price index, which is in particular dollar-influenced, is only based on data for the previous two months (April and May) and therefore, according to the bank, was not a factor in the index.

Lincoln National buys Cigna unit for \$1.4 b.

By TED HAMPTON

FORT WAYNE, Indiana (Bloomberg) - Lincoln National Corp. said it will buy Cigna Corp.'s individual life insurance and annuity businesses for \$1.4 billion, cementing its place as one of the biggest US retirement saving and life insurance providers.

The purchase would give Lincoln, already the 12th-largest US life insurance company, \$37 billion of individual policies in force and more than 600 Cigna agents. Shares of Fort Wayne, Indiana-based Lincoln gained 1 9/16 to 69.

Lincoln chairman Ian Rolland said in a statement that the acquisition will further the company's plan to become a "focused financial services company." Cigna said it will use the proceeds from the sale to buy back shares or for acquisitions.

The Philadelphia-based health care and insurance company said it will reap \$1.65 billion from the sale, including \$250 million in reserves it will keep from the insurance business. Cigna shares jumped 5 to 196.

The transaction would complete Cigna's exit from the individual insurance business, transforming it into a group insurance and managed health-care provider.

May jobless rate at three-year peak

By DAVID HARRIS

Unemployment totalled 7.7 percent in May, the highest figure since the first quarter of 1994, according to initial figures published yesterday by the Central Bureau of statistics.

The jobless figure has been rising throughout the year, with 7.6% out of work in April and 7.5% in March, with an average 7.3% for the first quarter.

The latest figure suggests unemployment is rapidly approaching the 180,000 mark, a rise of some 40,000 over the last year.

This Sunday ministers were scheduled to have discussed a Treasury report which pointed to increasing unemployment at least until the end of next year and possibly into the next century. While the discussion was postponed the

ministers have all received copies of the report which suggests unemployment will reach 7.7% this year, 7.9% by December 1998 and between 6.8% and 11.4% in 1999 and 2000.

These latest statistics from the Bureau indicate that unemployment is possibly rising at a faster rate than treasury economists thought when compiling the report earlier this month.

The Treasury, while forecasting rising unemployment also predicts a decline in population growth, one of the main factors being an anticipated decline in the number of new immigrants, particularly from the former Soviet states.

While the population grew in 1996 by 2.6%, the prediction is for a 2.3% rise this year, 2.2% in 1998 and 2.1% in the following two years. Similarly while immigration

reached 71,000 last year, between now and 2000 the annual inflow is projected to slow to 60,000.

In terms of the numbers of Israelis employed, as opposed to Palestinians or foreigners, the report points to a considerable decline in growth. In 1996 the annual rise was 2.4%, which is likely to slump to 1.6% this year. The Treasury forecasts a slight reversal of the trend in 1998 to 1.8%, with growth reaching 0.6% to 3.3% in 1999 and 2000.

The June jobseekers data from the Employment Service indicated the highest jobless levels are in Ofakim (13%), Kuseifa (12.6%), Sderot (11.8%), Shlomi (11.7%), Rahat and Kiryat Gat (11.2%).

Egypt General Petroleum raises \$1.1b. for projects

CAIRO (AP) - Egyptian General Petroleum Corp. has raised more than 3.7 billion Egyptian pounds (\$1.1 b.) to finance three fuel and petrochemical projects.

An oil ministry official said yesterday that EGPC had signed a partnership agreement with Egyptian banks and public sector insurance funds.

The EGPC will hold up to 40 percent of the shares in the projects, while the National Bank of Egypt, National Bank of Commerce, and Bank Misr and the insurance funds will own the rest, said the official.

The state-owned EGPC is considering allowing the public to buy

shares in the project, the official said.

The first project of 1.8 billion pounds (\$530 m.) will convert excess diesel from refineries in Assiut province, Suez, and the Red Sea into aviation fuel and kerosene.

The second project of 1.1 billion pounds (\$324 m.) is intended to produce 300,000 tons a year of primary components for petrochemicals and 200,000 tons a year of primary components for plastic.

A third project of about 840 million pounds (\$248 m.) is planned for the production of lubricating oil and candles.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS					
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U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250		
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Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.825	1.000		
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French franc	2.8345	2.9287	2.73	2.83	2.8531
Japanese yen (100)	0.8683	0.8765	0.85	0.88	0.8696
Dutch florin	3.0088	3.0551	2.95	3.10	3.0289
Swedish krona	1.8845	1.9219	1.86	1.95	1.9048
Swiss franc	2.3178	2.3850	2.27	2.38	2.3519
Norwegian krona	0.4482	0.4524	0.43	0.48	0.4470
Denish krona	0.4629	0.4711	0.45	0.48	0.4663
Finland mark	0.6714	0.6806	0.66	0.69	0.6743
Canadian dollar	0.6458	0.6593	0.63	0.67	0.6488
Australian dollar	2.5431	2.5842	2.49	2.52	2.5396
S. African rand	2.6908	2.8324	2.54	2.67	2.8072
Belgian franc (10)	0.7708	0.7833	0.69	0.79	0.7762
Austrian schilling (10)	0.8248	0.8389	0.80	0.86	0.8302
Italian lira (1000)	2.7194	2.7672	2.66	2.81	2.7326
Jordanian dinar	1.9602	1.9919	1.92	2.02	1.9721
Egyptian pound	4.8712	5.0514	4.81	5.24	5.0182
EGP	1.0000	1.0000	1.00	1.00	1.1167
Irish punt	3.7780	3.8370	3.64	3.82	3.7859
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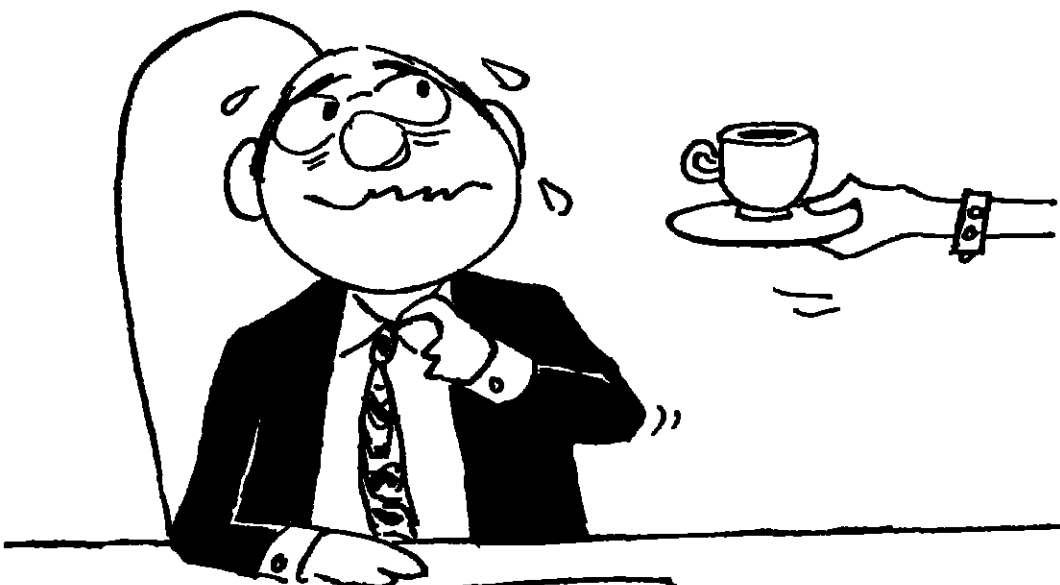
ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Israeli management: The next phase

Following periods of dogmatic socialism and raw capitalism, Israeli business leadership enters a new, post-modernist era

By SEVER PLOCKER

The half-century history of the typical Israeli manager began during a socialist era, then went through a phase of capitalism and is now embarking on a period of post-modernism.



MEIR RONNEN ©97

In the beginning stages of the Israeli economy, most of the managers were socialists whether sincerely or on the surface. They settled for little and demanded that their workers settle for even less.

That generation of managers did not believe in material incentives — well, except for an essential brief sortie abroad, when the political movement demanded it.

originated; a manager who resigned from one company could be found later managing another company, connected or similar to the previous one. Loyalty was more important than merit.

CHANGE BEGAN creeping in during the late '70s, as exposure to the outer world grew, and the Israeli CEO increasingly frequented America, returning from there enchanted by its raw capitalism.

To manage, according to that new attitude, meant to instill fear. Taylorism, the quasi-scientific management that turned the worker into a bored slave of the production line, dominated the world view of the common Israeli manager.

switched from socialism to capitalism, sinking into a paranoid chase after the ultimate cutback, dancing according to the fiddle of some imaginary profit ruler. These were not pleasant people.

The Israeli capitalist manager introduced two nearly religious tenets: the "personal contract" and the "manpower agency." The Israeli version of a personal contract, in contrast to the company contract common in the American high-tech industry — where it is extremely complex to lay off, for instance, an IBM employee — was meant to free managers from any obligation to the worker.

The use of manpower agencies deepened the distance and alienation between the workers and their companies, ultimately destroying, or at least severely damaging, companies' trust capital.

and even if they had, they focused on production and finance rather than on human relations.

The capitalistic phase in the history of Israeli management reached its peak, I believe, last year. The unrestrained greed has found its financial expression in the legendary salaries that Israeli managers extracted from their companies; a practice that annoyed ordinarily patient investors, both local and foreign.

NOW, THE Israeli manager appears embarrassed. The third era has dawned and our manager is meeting difficulties on an international level.

As he comes to America, he hears his friends from the Silicon Valley preaching on soft, moral, considerate, sharing and multipurpose management. The company's profit is not the essence, they tell him; it's the unit's profit that counts.

Do not encourage obedience, they explain, encourage creativity and freedom. Be one with the workers, not against them. Invest

in trust, closeness, vision.

To the CEO who underwent the shift from the socialist era to its Wall Street-obsessed successor, it seems like backtracking.

What's going on here? he wonders. Is this professional management or a boy-scouts camp? he asks. He rebels against the new wave, only to find he cannot defeat it. Younger managers than himself, his disciples, even his children, suddenly speak a language that he fails to comprehend.

You must become, they tell him, a maestro of an orchestra. The coordinator of rhythms and notes, giving respect to each musician. Remember that the maestro does not write the music. He merely functions as someone who enhances the orchestra, but with whom it can do without. In the advanced management courses, he hears of a virtual, imaginative society with no workers, but only partners who sit at home in front of computers. When he comes to Intel he meets a CEO who does not have a secretary. Then he becomes embarrassed. Whom does he yell at? Who will make him coffee?

On the one hand, it is safe to assume that his company is registered in one of the stock markets on either side of the Atlantic, and any decline in his company's profits automatically causes a painful drop in its stocks. He must therefore run the company so that it would survive the cruel financial world.

On the other hand, it is safe to assume that in order to preserve its profitability, the company must nurture its human capital, its spiritual qualities. This, after all, is the essence of competition at the end of the 20th century: survival in a world of inventive minds.

How does one merge the two worlds? How does one manage in two seemingly opposite styles? This is the question for which the post-modern Israeli manager is currently seeking distinctively Israeli answers.

The writer is business editor of the Yedioth Aharonot daily.



Mike Hubbard (center), president of SHL Systemhouse Europe, came to Israel to oversee the new phase of cooperation between his company and Clal Computers & Technology Ltd. The visit was part of CCT's outsourcing expansion plan. Hubbard was accompanied by Clal Israel Managing Director Yitzhak Kaul (right) and Malam Manager Gilad Rabinovitch. The two companies have been working together for the past seven years through CCT subsidiary Malam Systems Ltd.

Leading attorney Yigal Arnon, who inter alia chairs the board of the First International Bank and is a member of the board of Clal Insurance, has had to surrender more than half the shares he held in Knafayim, the parent company of Arkia. Arnon, who held 19 percent of the shares, agreed to give 10% of them to his ex-wife, Saki, as part of their divorce settlement. The couple was divorced last week in the Jerusalem Rabbinical Court.

Netcom has announced the appointments of Hezy Makmel as deputy sales manager and Nir Yitzhaki as marketing manager.

Nava Barak has been elected president of the Friends of the Rabin Medical Center, where she was a chairperson for the past year and a half. She will continue in the latter position while concurrently serving as president.

Bennie Lovai, a second generation real-estate broker and deputy chairman of the recently founded Jerusalem Chamber of Real Estate Brokers, has been appointed by Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi to serve on an advisory committee to the Registrar of Real Estate Licenses. New legislation requires that all real-estate brokers must have a government license in order to practice. Under the new requirements, all brokers will have to take an examination to prove their competence.

Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau and Eliahu Bakshi Doron are waging war on the import of non-kosher wines. One of their strategies is to withhold kashrut certificates from local wineries who are using the importers of non-kosher wines to market their products.

Oren Most has been named senior vice-president for marketing and sales and strategic planning at Cellcom.

Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy, in line with recently enacted legislation on national road safety, intends to appoint one of his aides, Shmuel Hershkovitz, as head of the newly approved National Safety Authority. The NSA will be responsible for all of the ministry's activities in its effort to prevent carnage on the roads.

THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

- 30.7** Ma'ariv Congresses has initiated a study day entitled Companies Which Have Difficulty Coping, to be held at Gan Oranim. Subjects to be discussed include bankruptcy or Chapter 11 in Israel, the legal expiration of a business, the manner in which banks deal with companies that are experiencing difficulties and taxation of troubled companies.
- 3.8** Since China, with its enormous market potential, has opened up to the West, manufacturers of every possible product have been taking not a slow boat, but a fast plane to China. Not all of them realize how different the Chinese mentality is from that of the West and may fail in their overtures as a result. With this in mind, organizers of the four-day CPD Fashion Fair in Dusseldorf have set aside August 5 for a workshop in which export-oriented entrepreneurs will learn about the world's largest growth market and the strategies that must be adopted in order to penetrate and develop new markets in the Far East.
- 3.8** The Annual General Meeting of Tashitz Investments and Holdings Ltd., will take place at the company's offices, 11 Gaigalei Haplada Street, Herzliya. Shareholders will be asked to approve financial reports up till December 31, 1996. They will also be asked to appoint company auditors and approve their salaries, elect a new board of directors and endorse the existing conditions governing the service of the board.
- 4.8** The Annual General Meeting of the Israel Public Council for the Prevention of Noise and Pollution will take place at the organization's headquarters, 30 Tchernichovsky Street, Tel Aviv.
- 7.8** The Annual General Meeting of the Israel Land Development Corporation followed by an Extraordinary General Meeting of the ILDC will take place at the company's registered offices, 194 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv. Aside from the usual reports and their acceptance by shareholders, the general meeting's agenda will include the one-time payment of a NIS 120,000 bonus to Rehavia Vardi, a director on the board, in recognition of his outstanding endeavors on behalf of the company. At the extraordinary general meeting, shareholders will be asked to approve an amendment to the company's articles of association.
- 18.8** Shareholders will convene for the Annual General Meeting of Dor Chemicals Ltd. at the company's offices, 17 Katzenstein Street, Haifa. Following discussions on both the directors' and the financial reports, a new board of directors will be elected and its remuneration determined. Those attending the meeting will also appoint company auditors and decide on their salaries. The final item on the agenda is the approval of a decision by the board of directors to disburse a dividend of NIS 1.5 million.
- 26.8** The Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting of the Poraz Foundation for Research and Development will take place at company offices in Textile House, 2 Kaufman Street, Tel Aviv. Shareholders attending the extraordinary general meeting will be asked to vote for the company's official change of name. In the absence of a quorum, the meeting will be deferred to September 2.
- 6.9** Three exciting days of exhibitions, forums and conferences on Lingerie, Beachwear, and Swimwear await visitors to Lyon Mode City in France, where 650 exhibitors from France and around the world will be flaunting new merchandise as well as new fabrics used in manufacturing.

Mopeds for the mods

Attention trendy, upmarket buyers: Aprilia has two additions to its line of designer scooters

By JOEL GORDIN

Italian-made Aprilia mopeds are not made with pizza delivery people in mind; they are quality vehicles designed for upmarket riders.

This summer, the local dealers, Metro Ltd., are treating Aprilia fans to the choice of two new models: the Netscaper SR 50 and the Rally 50 LC. Both have 49.2cc, water-cooled, two-stroke engines generating 7.6 horsepower. Both have, like all modern mopeds, automatic gears and push-button, electronic starters backed up by a kick-start system.

The Netscaper (named after the internet browser) is designed for those riders who prefer to keep to the tarmac and who like to travel fast. The Rally, on the other hand, is suitable for off-road riding. The Netscaper can be compared to a sports (though not a racing) bicycle; the Rally to a mountain bike, in fact, some promote describe it as a "mountain moped."

The high rear end features a pillion seat that is modeled after those found on racing motorcycles, adding to the impression that this is a fast sports two-wheeler. The three easy-to-read dashboard dials (speedometer, temperature gauge and fuel gauge) light up with gorgeous colors in the dark.

Does the book live up to its cover? The Netscaper is nippier than most 50cc mopeds, but parents need not worry too much. Acceleration is instant, but even if you twist the accelerator until your hand falls off, you can't coax more than 90 km/h. from the engine — with a tail wind. There is, after all, a limit to how much power can be stored within 50cc's worth of engine.

Actually, the Netscaper does well to hit 90 km/h, considering its weight, which is more than that of the average moped. Most of the excess comes from the water-cooling system in the engine (other mopeds are air-cooled). The advantage of water-cooling is greater efficiency, which is particularly apparent on longer journeys. I drove from Tel Aviv to Netanya and from Tel Aviv to Lod at full throttle on one of the hottest days of the year and the engine showed no signs of strain, wear or tear.



The Aprilia Rally

The Netscaper could provide an answer for those who commute long distances and are unable to buy a model with an engine larger than 50cc. The suspension is comfy and the brakes (disc at the front, drum at the back) are sharp and secure.

If the Netscaper is designed to "look fast," then the Rally is made to "look tough." It's all machismo, from the its wide, knobby tires, to its business-like forks and suspension pillars to its high front mudguard, which looks exactly like those on real cross- or off-road motorcycles.

more than a posturing peacock. I would not enter it in a rally through the Sahara, but its balloon tires, high underbelly and spring suspension make it pretty useful on dirt tracks. It is quite good, too, on soft sand, where its water-cooled engine stubbornly keeps on turning to fight its way out of the morass. The Rally is ideal for off-road beginners who do not want to be lumbered with a difficult-to-ride "genuine" cross or trail motorcycle.

The Rally's on-road performance is surprisingly creditable. Despite its off-road build, it can reach almost the same top speed as its brother, the Netscaper. The road holding is excellent, thanks to the rigidity of the chassis and the wide tires. Its off-road attributes can be blessing on a bad asphalt road. The powerful suspension smooths away cracks in the tarmac and those annoying road humps that are the bane in the life of moped riders.

Both the Rally and the Netscaper have eight-liter gasoline tanks that should carry the rider close to 200 km. They have storage space under the seat for a full-face helmet, a pouch in front for documents and small tools, and a hook on the inside of the front section for a briefcase or a parcel. The steering can be locked with the ignition key.

The expanded list of Seat models on offer in Israel is: Ibiza 1.4 Latino (NIS 58,900); Ibiza 1.6 Latino three-door (NIS 61,900); Ibiza 1.6 Latino five-door (NIS 63,900); Ibiza 1.6 SE Automatic (NIS 71,900); Ibiza TDI 1.9 SXE (NIS 84,900); Ibiza GTI two-liter 16V (NIS 97,500); Cordova 1.6 SX 100 hp. (NIS 75,900); Toledo 1.9D (NIS 73,900); and the Inca 1.9 D Combi (NIS 68,000; not including VAT). — J.G.

Declaration of independence

Sales of the Spanish-made marque Seat (pronounced See-at) have been on the downswing here for the past few years.

The gap between Seat and Volkswagen sales is widening at an alarming rate. In June, for example, 86 Seats were sold, compared to 461 Volkswagens. Champion is now making a full-scale effort to give Seat its own image. Since VW has always been regarded as solid and conservative, they are trying to stamp Seat with a young, trendy image, appealing to those who value "fun and quality."

Volkswagen and Audi. It will be given a brand-new main showroom in Gazit House near the new Hashalom Street Railway Station. Along with the automobiles, the Seat management will move to the new premises, away from Volkswagen headquarters opposite the Ramat Gan Mall. Throughout the country, Seat showrooms will open, independently of VW and Audi showrooms.

MONEY MARKET section with various financial data and tables.

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: AMEX, NASDAQ, Last, Change. Lists various Israeli companies like Amip Paper Mills, Azopel American, etc.

MISHANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists top 100 TASE issues like Intel, Microsoft, etc.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists international shares like Alcoa, AMR, etc.

NEW YORK

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists New York market data including various indices and company shares.

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TASE ROUNDUP

Stocks slip before rate decision. Mishtanim 304.28 -0.21%. Maof 311.58 -0.38%.

Stocks slipped from records yesterday as analysts and investors awaited the Bank of Israel's decision on interest rates.

All eyes were on the central bank, and "maybe some investors see a rise" in rates coming, said Dror Kraus.

The Mishanin Index of 100 most-traded stocks eased 0.21 percent to 304.28.

The Dow Jones industrial average clung to a small gain yesterday.

NYSE: Key Representative Rates. US DollarNIS 3.545 -0.22%.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES. DJ IndustrialLast 8121.11 -0.21%.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES. FTSE 100Last 4822.6 -0.23%.

US COMMODITIES. Crude Oil (COC)Last 29.12 +0.07.

LONDON COMMODITIES. Crude Oil (COC)Last 29.12 +0.07.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US). Gold spotLast 374.1 +0.15.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES. Gold AugLast 374.1 +0.15.

LONDON METAL FIXES. Gold AugLast 374.1 +0.15.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

PARIS. AlcatelLast 227.0 +0.17.

FRANKFURT. Allianz AGLast 1650.00 -0.06.

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Shares moderately higher

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's FTSE 100 leading share index finished moderately higher yesterday.

The FTSE 100 closed at 4,822.6, up 11.1 points or 0.23 percent.

FRANKFURT - Share prices climbed in late session trading, extending the strong gains put on during the course session as investors continued to direct funds towards Germany.

WHERE TO GO. TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Andres Serrano: The Magog. Soviet Photography from the Museum collection.

HELLEN RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Shlomo Ben-David and Arnon Ben-David. The Inverted Campaign: Hours-Weekdays 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

HAIFA WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA. Tel Aviv Museums. In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English).

GENERAL ASSISTANCE. In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English).

Medical help for tourists (In English) 17-022-9110.

Triumphant Aussies set to retain Ashes

LEEDS (Reuter) - Australia strengthened their grip on the Ashes yesterday with a commanding fourth Test victory over England by an innings and 61 runs.

Ashes holders since 1989, Australia gained a 2-1 lead with two matches to play.

The latest win was even more emphatic than the third Test thrashing at Old Trafford yet once again England were able to point to critical moments when they might have taken control.

They were well placed at 138 for three in the first innings, before subsiding to 172 all out, and then had Australia in trouble at 50 for four.

But Jason Gillespie, named man of the match for his first innings seven for 37, Matthew Elliott, with 199 after being dropped on 29, and Ricky Ponting who made 127, all rose to challenges that their opponents failed to meet.

"It was a tale of missed opportunities," said England captain Michael Atherton.

"The door was half-open for us and we weren't good enough to get through it. We need to play better

than we've done here and at Old Trafford."

Atherton refused to be drawn on whether there would be changes for the fifth Test, or whether he regretted dropping seam bowler Andy Caddick for unsuccessful debutant Mike Smith.

His opposite number Mark Taylor was able to shrug off another personal failure with the bat, given his position of strength in the series.

"We're in a good position and we'll go to Trent Bridge full of confidence," he said.

Beginning the final day at 212 for four, still 117 behind, England badly needed Nasser Hussain and John Crawley to continue their long fifth wicket partnership.

But Hussain lasted only five more overs before giving a catch to mid-off from Shane Warne's bowling having scored 105.

Although Mark Ealham hung around for an hour in making four, a clatter of four wickets in 40 balls effectively ended the resistance.

The end came with the first ball after lunch as Robert Croft was caught behind off Paul Reiffel.

Reiffel finished with five wickets to emphasize the superiority of Australia's three-pronged pace attack, backed up by Warne.

With a stronger batting line-up as well, Australia have every right to be confident about the last two matches of the series at grounds that are traditionally friendly to batsmen.

England first innings 172 (J.Gillespie 7-37)
Australia first innings 501-9 decl. (M.Elliott 199, R.Ponting 127, P.Reiffel 56*, D.Gough 5-149)
England second innings (overnight 212-4)
M.Baucher c Hooley b McGrath 19
M.Atherton c Warne b McGrath 2
A.Stewart b Reiffel 16
R.Hussain c Gillespie b Reiffel 105
G.Thorne c M.Waugh b Gillespie 15
J.Crawley b Reiffel 72
M.Ealham c M.Waugh b Reiffel 4
D.Headley lbw b Reiffel 3
R.Croft c Hooley b Reiffel 4
D.Gough c M.Waugh b Gillespie 105
M.Smith not out 4
Extras (9-8-4-1-1) 23
Total 288
Fall of wickets: 1-23 2-26 3-57 4-89 5-222 6-259 7-259 8-259 9-294
Bowling: McGrath 22-6-80-2, Reiffel 21-1-2-49-5, Gillespie 23-6-85-2, Warne 21-6-83-1, S.Waugh 11-11-0
Result: Australia won by an innings & 61 runs
1st Test: Edgbaston - England won by 8 wickets
2nd Test: Lords - Match drawn
3rd Test: Old Trafford - Australia won by 268 runs
4th Test: Trent Bridge - August 1 to 11
5th Test: The Oval - August 21-25



LOOK BACK IN SHAME - England's John Crawley takes a long look at his off stump while walking back to the pavilion after being bowled by Paul Reiffel for 72. Australian captain Mark Taylor and wicketkeeper Ian Healy celebrate as they sense the inevitable. (AP)

Syrian soccer fans riot after loss to Jordan in Arab Games final

BEIRUT (Reuter) - Angry Syrian spectators wrecked hundreds of seats at Beirut's stadium after their national team lost 1-0 to Jordan in the soccer final on the closing day of the eighth pan-Arab Games on Sunday.

Some 30,000 Syrians destroyed an estimated 400 seats and hurled rubbish and empty bottles at the players while Syrian players beat and kicked Lebanese photographers, witnesses said.

The Lebanese army evacuated the stadium but no casualties were reported in the incidents.

Beirut's stadium, destroyed by Israeli bombs in the civil war, was rebuilt for the games at a cost of \$50 million.

Egypt were the big winners in the two-week games which were also tainted by Arab political rivalries and doping.

With 97 gold, 57 silver and 40 bronze medals, Egypt were well ahead of their closest rivals Algeria who won 43, 44 and 44.

Officials disqualified 12 athletes from the games for doping. They included five Egyptian athletes, two Saudis, an Algerian, a Tunisian, two Syrians and one Kuwaiti.

It was the first time that Arab athletes had been thrown out for doping since the games were



ROYAL WELCOME - King Hussein, Queen Noor and Crown Prince Hassan greet the victorious Jordanian soccer team at Amman airport yesterday. (Reuters)

launched in 1953 in Alexandria, Egypt.

The games had started with controversy when Lebanon, under pressure from conservative and influential Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, barred 97 Iraqi athletes from competing.

They were stranded at the Syrian-Lebanese border without visas for two days before heading home.

The Games were the first major international event staged in the Lebanese capital since the end of the 1975-1990 civil war.

About 2,200 athletes from 19 countries took part in 20 sports. On Sunday the flag of the games was handed over to Jordan which will host the next edition in 2001.

Ferdinand ready to bring glory to Spurs

LONDON (Reuter) - England striker Les Ferdinand is ready to help bring some glory back to Tottenham Hotspur after completing his £6 million (\$9.9 million) move from Newcastle United yesterday.

Ferdinand's return to London enables him to link up again with his former manager at Queens Park Rangers, Gerry Francis, who is now Tottenham

team boss.

"Gerry and I worked well together at QPR and now I am hoping we can work well together and bring Spurs some glory," Ferdinand said at a news conference at Tottenham's training headquarters.

"Gerry must take a lot of credit for getting me into the England squad and getting me on the right road."

Katzurin touted as next national basketball coach

By ORI LEWIS

The Israel Basketball Association's professional committee yesterday announced that it would be putting forward the name of Muli Katzurin to the body's presidium as its candidate for the job of national coach.

Katzurin and Efi Bimbaum were the only two coaches to put their names forward and after an interview, their candidacies were discussed by the committee yesterday.

Katzurin now looks almost certain to get the coveted position, although this will only be confirmed by the IBA's presidium when it convenes on Monday.

The position will include responsibility for all Israel's representative basketball teams, although it is chiefly the coaching of the men's national team which will concern the new appointee.

The position became vacant after Zvi Sherf took up the coach's job with Greek club PAOK Salonika last month.

Youth team draw 1-1 with Ireland

By ORI LEWIS

The national under-18 soccer team ended their three-match challenge at the European Championships in Reykjavik, Iceland yesterday with a 1-1 draw against Ireland.

The Israelis, who previously lost 3-0 to Switzerland and 2-0 to France in their group matches, were slightly more successful yesterday, and knowing there was nothing to lose, played freely against the strong opposition from the Irish Republic.

Yossi Benayoun scored Israel's first goal in the competition with a superb solo effort in the 35th minute when he rounded four defenders and shot from close range into the Irish net.

Ireland managed to equalize in the 82nd minute when Lee Bolan hit a cracker which rebounded into the goal off the crossbar to give keeper Kobi Shalo no chance.

This was the first-ever appearance by an Israeli side in the finals of a European competition. The squad leaves for home today.

Steelers beat Bears 30-17 in American Bowl in Dublin

DUBLIN (AP) - The Pittsburgh Steelers, in the first NFL game in Ireland, defeated the Chicago Bears 30-17 Sunday in the American Bowl at Dublin's north side Croke Park.

The Steelers looked much more ready than the Bears in the first pre-season game for each team, particularly early when Steelers No. 1 quarterback Kordell Stewart easily out-played his Bears counterpart Rick Mirer.

The game wrapped up a week of razzmatazz in the Irish capital in one of the NFL's annual pre-season games abroad aimed at selling the American game to foreigners.

It was a tough sell with 30,269, mostly baffled Irish fans, sitting in. A college game here eight months ago between Notre Dame and Navy drew 38,000 - half of them Americans who made the trip. This time the Irish had to fill most of the seats.

Court: Modahl can sue British federation

LONDON (Reuter) - Middle-distance runner Diane Modahl has been given the green light to sue the British Athletic Federation (BAF) after clearing her name of drug-taking allegations more than a year ago.

The Briton had been banned from competing for four years and was given the go-ahead to press on with a compensation claim by the High Court in London yesterday.

"I was branded a drug cheat but I have cleared my name and today we have won our case so I am very happy," Modahl said.

Modahl was banned after testing positive for testosterone and another substance in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1994. The defending 800 meters champion was sent home early from the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada, after the results came out.

For 20 months Modahl and her coach-husband Vicente contested the results of the drug test before winning one of the most celebrated cases to question the drug-testing system.

The BAF had challenged a court ruling a year ago that Modahl could proceed with her legal action on the basis that the Lisbon laboratory where her drug test was carried out was not accredited by international athletics bodies and that there had been a racial bias at federation disciplinary hearings.

Three Court of Appeal judges agreed yesterday that the accreditation issue could not go on trial but that she could proceed on the bias claim.

Modahl, 31, began the proceedings in early 1996 to claim compensation for the losses she suffered during her ban and it is thought her claim will be somewhere in the region of £1 million (\$1.7 million).

LOCAL SCENE

Nahum knee injury thwarts his Athens ticket

By HEATHER CHAIT

Rogel Nahum, who has recently been in great form, and was tipped to break his own national triple-jump record of 17.20 meters, will not compete at the IAAF Championships which begin in Athens on Friday. The setback, a knee injury, has probably seen the end of Nahum's action this season. He aggravated it this week during a light run and is expected to undergo a fourth operation to correct the damage.

The athletes who will be representing Israel are pole vaulter Danny Krasnov, high jumper Konstantin Matusevich, triple jumper Avi Teyrie, sprinter Tommy Cafri, javelin thrower Alex Fingart and marathon runner Assaf Bimro.

Meanwhile long distance runner Edna Lankri shaved 45 hundredths of a second off the national 1,000 meters mark. Lankri set the new record of 2:46.03 at a meet in Campion, France, breaking her own previous record.

Olympic Games: Jumping from coach of the national volleyball team is Gili Lustig who was appointed this week to manage the Elite Sports Unit, a task which means shaping the athletes for Sydney 2000. Lustig replaces Itzik Ben-Melech who goes south to Cape Town to oversee a similar sports department there. Lustig, who led the national team to unknown heights, agreed to sacrifice coaching the team but insisted

on retaining his role as Maccabi Tel Aviv coach.

Tennis: Just nine places separate the top three local players now since Eyal Ran drops to 165 this week in the ATP Tour rankings. At 170 is Eyal Erlich with 265 points against Ran's total of 272 while Oren Motevassel is at 174 and 258 points. A comparison with our Moroccan counterparts who will visit Ramat Hasharon in September for the Euro/African Zone Group I Davis Cup tie shows an unbalanced situation. Their top three players, Hicham Arazi, Karim Alami and Younes el Aynaoui fill the 41, 53 and 132 spots respectively.

Golf: Richard Fogelson was the runaway winner in this week's individual stableford competition, taking the A division with 40 points.

Trailing him were Mike Ossip on 35 and Basil Kaufman on 30.

Ben Hoffman took the B division with 34 points, followed by Carmen Pincovich at 33 and Zvi Shahar on 29. Winning the C group with 35 points was Hanan Eshed with Moshe Zarkover behind on 34 and Shmuel Futera on 32.

Solly Friedman and Lou Zinn tied on 33 in the D division but Friedman's better back-nine slipped him into first place. Third was Modi Kidon on 32.

Cricket: After winning the Maccabiah bronze medal, the cricketers returned to the local leagues with a renewed vigor. In Division A, Neveh Yonatan made 310/6 (S. Raj 89 n.o.) in reply to Beersheba's 116/9 (A. Daniels 5/36). Lions Lod had it easier with a walkover over Ashdod A.

Petah Tikva, playing in the B division, scored 289/7 (S. Samuel 91) but Ramla fell well short, managing only 195 all out.

Lod made 132/8 to unsettle Dimona C who were all out for 127.

Baseball: Moving up a league is the national junior baseball team which beat Britain 19-15 in the semi-final round of the playoffs at the European Junior League Baseball Tournament (Pool B) last week in Hull, England.

The result assures Israel of a place in pool A next year, a first for the team.

In the final, Israel went down to the Ukraine for the second time in the tournament, losing 16-6. Earlier, Israel beat Georgia 22-2 in their opening match.

Collecting individual awards were Matan Goldberg as pitcher with most wins and David Eisenberg with his highest batting average.

Cycling: Keep healthy while making a stand for cyclists' rights. Jerusalem for Bicycles' next ride is August 15 and sets out from Gan Sacher towards Beit Hakerem and Malha and return. Prove to this city that biking is the quick, convenient way to get places. Bring your helmets.

For details, call 050-482224 or 02-6433816.

CLASSIFIEDS

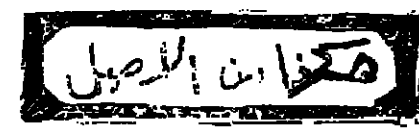
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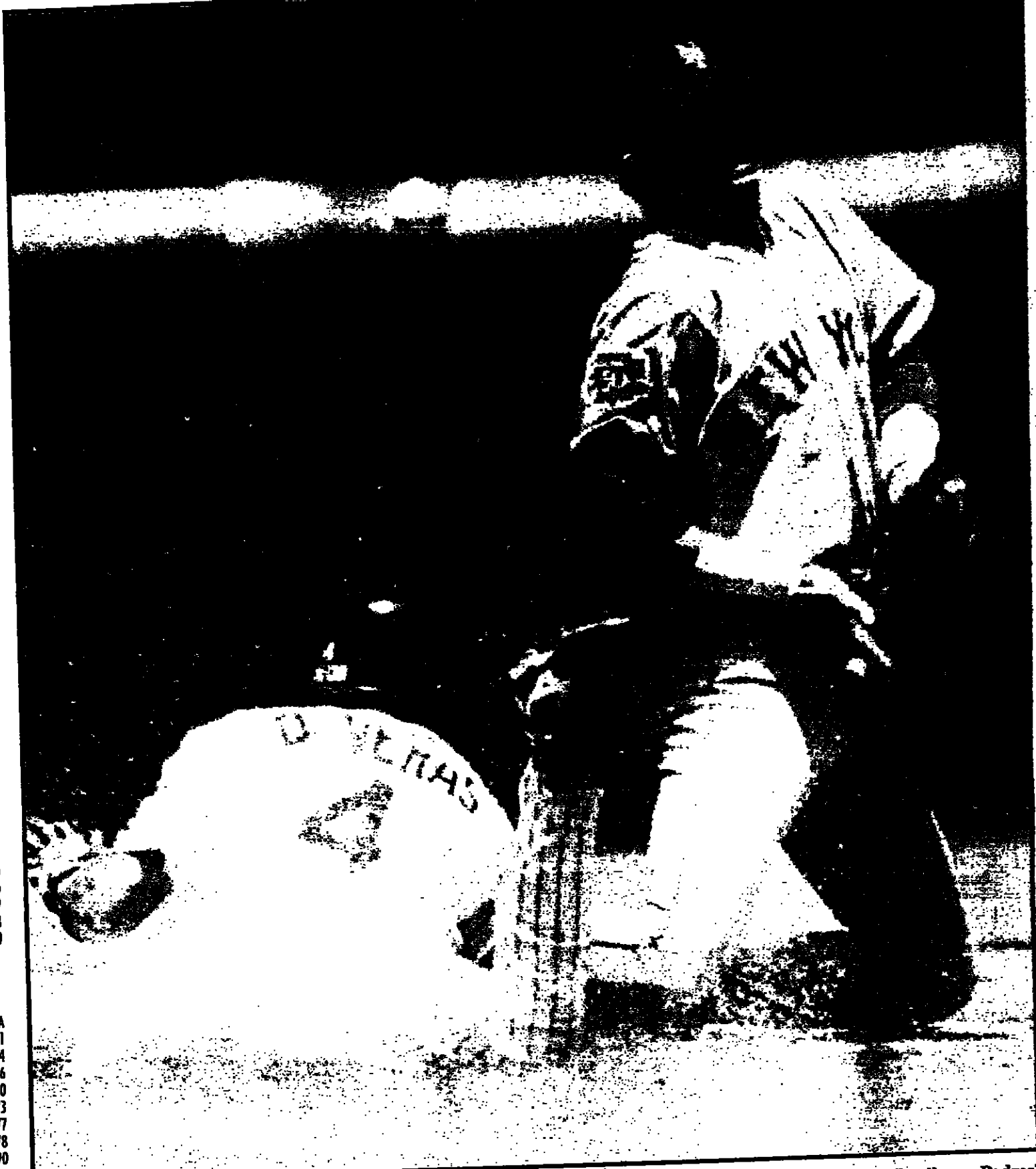
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Major League Statistics

AMERICAN LEAGUE TEAM BATTING, INDIVIDUAL BATTING, NATIONAL LEAGUE TEAM BATTING, INDIVIDUAL BATTING, TEAM PITCHING, INDIVIDUAL PITCHING. Multiple columns of baseball statistics including batting averages, home runs, RBIs, ERA, and wins.



SCRAMBLING TO SAFETY - New York's shortstop Rey Ordóñez can't hold a throw from catcher Todd Hundley as Padres' Quilvio Vera steals second base in first inning action in the game played in San Diego on Sunday.

Hampton throws complete game as Astros notch ninth straight win

HOUSTON (Reuters) - Mike Hampton tossed his fourth complete game in six July starts as the Houston Astros matched their longest winning streak since 1991 Sunday, 7-2 over the slumping Montreal Expos. Hampton (8-7) gave up eight hits, struck out six and walked none for the National League Central Division leaders. The left-hander is 5-0 with a 2.25 earned run average in July, giving up just 12 earned runs in 48 innings. He had just two complete games in his career before this month. "I feel strong and my arm feels great," Hampton said. "Right now I have the mindset that this is my game and I want to finish it. I'm pitching with a lot of confidence right now. All I'm trying to do is throw strikes, keep the hitters off-balance and let the team score some runs for me." Sean Berry homered, tripled, drove in three runs and scored twice for the Astros, who swept a four-game series for the first time since August 2-5 against Atlanta. Houston Astros matched their longest winning streak since 1991 Sunday, 7-2 over the slumping Montreal Expos. Hampton (8-7) gave up eight hits, struck out six and walked none for the National League Central Division leaders. The left-hander is 5-0 with a 2.25 earned run average in July, giving up just 12 earned runs in 48 innings. He had just two complete games in his career before this month. "I feel strong and my arm feels great," Hampton said. "Right now I have the mindset that this is my game and I want to finish it. I'm pitching with a lot of confidence right now. All I'm trying to do is throw strikes, keep the hitters off-balance and let the team score some runs for me." Sean Berry homered, tripled, drove in three runs and scored twice for the Astros, who swept a four-game series for the first time since August 2-5 against Atlanta. Houston Astros matched their longest winning streak since 1991 Sunday, 7-2 over the slumping Montreal Expos. Hampton (8-7) gave up eight hits, struck out six and walked none for the National League Central Division leaders. The left-hander is 5-0 with a 2.25 earned run average in July, giving up just 12 earned runs in 48 innings. He had just two complete games in his career before this month. "I feel strong and my arm feels great," Hampton said. "Right now I have the mindset that this is my game and I want to finish it. I'm pitching with a lot of confidence right now. All I'm trying to do is throw strikes, keep the hitters off-balance and let the team score some runs for me." Sean Berry homered, tripled, drove in three runs and scored twice for the Astros, who swept a four-game series for the first time since August 2-5 against Atlanta.

Ullrich's triumph presages new era in Tour de France

PARIS - Hardly had one door closed on Miguel Indurain's brilliant Tour de France career than another opened on his successor Jan Ullrich. "We have witnessed the birth of a champion," said Tour director Jean-Marie Le Blanc as Ullrich won the French classic on Sunday. Ullrich could, though, go the way of another precocious Tour winner, Italian Felice Gimondi, who was only 22 when he triumphed for the first in 1965. Gimondi never won the race again. But the 23-year-old German promises to be an enduring champion and looks set to emulate Frenchmen Jacques Anquetil and Bernard Hinault with a long reign. Anquetil and Hinault were also 23 when they won the first of their five titles. Laurent Fignon was the same age when he won his first of two. Ullrich is four years younger than his idol Indurain was when the Spaniard won the first of five consecutive titles. Indurain predicted Ullrich's victory when the German crushed all opposition in a time trial at the end of the 1996 Tour to finish second overall. He must have seen something of himself in the East German-born youngster - perhaps the result of similarities in their upbringing amid austere surroundings and strong values. Ullrich appeared to have killed off all competition in the Tour halfway when he followed his remarkable stage victory in Andorra with a devastating time trial in St Etienne to open up a lead of more than six minutes. The signs appeared in the first Pyrenean stage when Ullrich looked to have the reserves to go out in front but stayed back out of loyal



CYCLING'S NEW STAR - Jan Ullrich.

ty to his team leader Bjarne Riis, the 1996 champion. Ullrich astonished all onlookers with his strength in the saddle, never rising on to his pedals as he powered his way up the climbs in the manner of Indurain. But fighting performances in the mountains from Frenchman Richard Virenque, backed by his Festina team, and climber supreme Marco Pantani of Italy, who had bravely overcome a terrible leg injury, kept the pot boiling almost to the finish. Le Blanc pointed to the emergence of a foil for Ullrich in Virenque, probably sadly des-

Arabic text at the bottom of the page, likely a newspaper title or masthead: "يومية القدس"

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Today's offerings at the Kfar Blum chamber music festival include an afternoon (5) concert with young pianists participating in the Tel Hai summer piano international master classes...

The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's season concludes tonight (8) at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv. Anyone who has missed the spellbinding presentation of Puccini's last opera, Turandot...

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

Daughters. Daughters, a classic Israeli comedy film, will be shown tonight on Channel 2, at 10. One of Israel's funniest men, the late Shaikhe Ophir, stars in this spoof of Mizrahi male chauvinism...

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

DONNIE BRASCO - Director Mike Newell's film is based on the true story of an FBI agent (Johnny Depp) who goes undercover and infiltrates a powerful crime family by forging a deep and difficult-to-sever bond with one of its neediest members (Al Pacino)...



Shaikhe Ophir stars in the spoof 'Daughters, Daughters,' on Channel 2 at 10 p.m. (Israel Sun)

Funeral. Newell approaches the usual violent subject matter on his own terms (psychology takes precedence over action) and with an unflinching eye for the down-and-out, day-to-day workings of an organized crime operation...

THAT OLD FEELING - In this enjoyable retrograde romantic comedy, Bette Midler and Dennis Farina play a divorced couple who claim to despise each other but who turn out still to be deeply in love...

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
6:35 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel
8:00 Cartoons
10:00 Gogo's World

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Aladdin
7:00 Coffee with Tel-Ad

CHANNEL 3

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Aladdin
7:00 Coffee with Tel-Ad

CHANNEL 4

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Aladdin
7:00 Coffee with Tel-Ad

CHANNEL 5

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Aladdin
7:00 Coffee with Tel-Ad

CHANNEL 6

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Aladdin
7:00 Coffee with Tel-Ad

CHANNEL 7

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Aladdin
7:00 Coffee with Tel-Ad

CHANNEL 8

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Aladdin
7:00 Coffee with Tel-Ad

CHANNEL 9

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Aladdin
7:00 Coffee with Tel-Ad

CHANNEL 10

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Aladdin
7:00 Coffee with Tel-Ad

SCHOOL

06:35 Herman's Head
10:00 Jazz at the Roof
14:50 Days of Our Lives

15:40 Ricki Lake (rpt)
16:30 Zingara
17:15 The Life to Live

18:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:15 The Young and the Restless

19:45 Sunset Beach
20:30 The Other Half - dating game
21:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines

21:30 The People's Century
22:30 Dream On
23:00 Verso of the Day

23:30 News
00:00 Verso of the Day

00:00 Verso of the Day

00:00 Verso of the Day

00:00 Verso of the Day

00:00 Verso of the Day

PRIME TIME TV

Table with columns for time slots (19:30, 20:00, 20:30, 21:00, 21:30, 22:00, 22:30, 23:00) and program titles like News flash, News, Gitter, The Other Half, etc.

Table with columns for time slots (21:35, 22:00, 22:30, 23:00) and program titles like Different World, Open University, World of Wine, etc.

Table with columns for time slots (8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00) and program titles like Open University, World of Wine, etc.

Table with columns for time slots (6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00) and program titles like Motion, NBA Action, etc.

Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00) and program titles like VJP, Nightly News, etc.

Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00) and program titles like JUNGLE 2, etc.

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RADIO

6:00 Morning Concert
6:30 Porgies; Mozart; Beethoven; Shostakovich; Poulenc; Britten

12:00 Light Classical - marches by Bizet, Sousa, J. Strauss I, Paganini, Suk, Wagner, Gershwin and others

17:00 Voice of Music in Upper Galilee - works by Haydn, Brahms, Liszt, Debussy, Scriabin

20:05 Liszt; Tarega
21:00 Voice of Music in Upper Galilee - works by Mendelssohn, Tzohi Droni, Bartok, Poulenc

21:00 Voice of Music in Upper Galilee - works by Mendelssohn, Tzohi Droni, Bartok, Poulenc

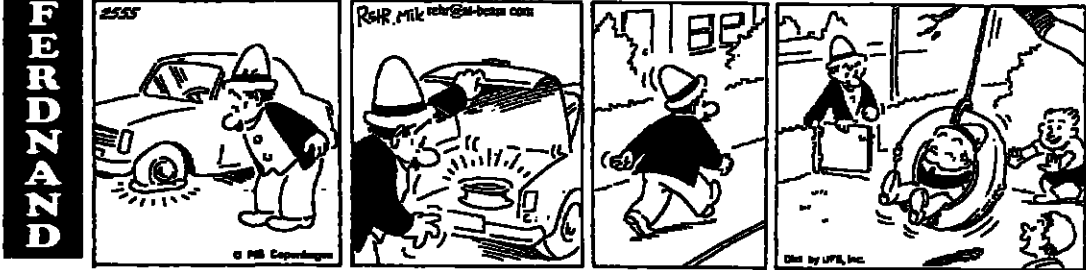
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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Much oil's used, explanatory note required (8)
5 Capital protection for a man involved in sport (6)
9 Watched and obeyed (8)
10 Edward the German turned colour (6)
12 The bad guys in suits (6)
13 Base life form? Quite likely (8)
15 Remains superior in Derbyshire (7)
16 The language of some Merseyside youngsters (14)
20 Disregard the doctor backing it (4)
21 Enter furtively, being a mug about almost everything (5,2)
25 Account for Oriental's agitation (8)
26 Keeping clear head in panic is rare (6)
28 Churchman finds company in another (6)
29 Meet with a number over the border (8)
30 The press constantly receives directions! (6)
31 Reports an arrest wrongly made (8)
DOWN
1 Supplies the flowers (6)
2 Disastrously rash US soldier (6)
3 Bounty - great ship, and English built (8)
4 Plainly found practicable, though not new (4)
6 There's no overcrowded town in Denmark (6)
7 Hen that's spotted feeding on greenfly (8)
8 Turned over and faced the wall (8)
11 Top man who isn't particular (7)
14 A game of bridge (7)
17 Stir a breakfast cereal (8)
18 Many ailing people can be useful running water (8)
19 Realise small daughter is about done (8)
22 Hit the rowing man! (6)
23 Thanks a painter twice over for the mount (6)
24 Making a break, write touching note, then a letter (6)
27 Seating is provided in so far as space allows (4)

COUNTRYDANCING grid with numbers and letters for a crossword puzzle.

QUICK CROSSWORD grid with numbers and letters for a crossword puzzle.

JERUSALEM

CINEMA/TELEVISION listings for Jerusalem including titles like 'The Spider's Stratagem', 'The Last World', 'The English Patient', etc.

MOVIES

MOVIES listings for various theaters including titles like 'The Fifth Element', 'The English Patient', 'The Last World', etc.

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MOVIES listings for various theaters including titles like 'The Fifth Element', 'The English Patient', 'The Last World', etc.

Labor MK to ask High Court for PM, cabinet resignation

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Labor Party whip Ra'anan Cohen will this morning petition the High Court of Justice to order the resignation of the prime minister and cabinet, following an opinion by Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein that voting against a cabinet decision is tantamount to resigning.

The reference was to the vote by members of the cabinet in favor of bills calling for a special Knesset majority or a referendum on any proposal to make territorial concessions on the Golan Heights. The Ministerial Committee on Legislation had earlier decided not to support the bills.

Premier Binyamin Netanyahu and seven other ministers including Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, who announced the government's position on the law, voted in favor. Cohen said the attorney-general would have a very difficult time defending the government against his petition, after he criticized the ministers for their actions on Sunday.

Meanwhile Meretz MK Ran Cohen has written urgently to Rubinstein to express his opinion on the legality of the government in view of his Sunday assessment.

"Should the entire cabinet resign - or should just the cabinet resign and the premier form a new government?" Cohen asked, in his letter to Rubinstein.

But Science Minister Michael Eitan (Likud) yesterday angrily rejected suggestions that Rubinstein had said the government's action was not lawful.

"There is no basis to this in law. He did not say it. It is rubbish and whoever says that, knows nothing," Eitan told *The Jerusalem Post*. "He said merely that it was not esthetic."

"The law states that a minister who votes against the government does not automatically resign. He resigns only if, after two weeks, the government decides to take action and to state that he has been dismissed."

US envoy to work for Israel as full UN member

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - US Ambassador to the UN Bill Richardson assured two members of the US Congress yesterday that he would urge his UN colleagues to grant Israel first-class status as a UN member, one of the congressmen said.

Israel is unique among the 185 member states in that it is not part of one of the regional groups, thereby denying it a chance for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council or the Economic and Social Council.

During a meeting at the US Mission, Rep. Steve Rothman (Democrat-New Jersey) and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (Republican-Florida) asked Richardson to urge members of the "West European and Others" group - Western European countries, Canada, Australia and New Zealand - to grant Israel temporary membership of their bloc.

Rothman said he believed the time was right to pursue the issue of Israel's place at the UN because of the current campaign to reform and reinvigorate the world organization.

Membership in a regional group is important for several reasons. It would afford Israel the opportunity to sit in on closed-door caucuses where countries from Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe forge common positions on major issues.

Those groups also nominate members for terms on the influential Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. The final decision is taken by vote of the full General Assembly.

Because it is not a member of a regional bloc, Israel has never served on either council even though it has been a UN member for 49 years.

WEATHER July 29-30

Heb	24-30	Tel Aviv	24-29
Tiberias	22-28	Jerusalem	18-28
Afula	22-32	Beer Sheva	22-33
Samarin	20-29	East Sam	30-38
Elad	27-42		

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Drop in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	MOON	COND.
	C	F	MPH		
Amsterdam	11	52	19	06	clear
Berlin	14	57	23	07	clear
Buenos Aires	18	64	28	09	cloudy
Caro	24	75	33	08	cloudy
Chicago	22	72	31	07	cloudy
Frankfurt	12	54	21	07	clear
Helsinki	15	59	25	08	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	82	20	08	clear
Jakarta	22	72	20	08	clear
London	15	59	25	08	clear
Los Angeles	17	63	26	07	clear
Madrid	21	70	28	07	cloudy
Moscow	15	59	25	08	cloudy
New York	21	70	28	07	clear
Paris	17	63	26	07	clear
Rome	18	64	28	07	clear
Sydney	24	75	33	08	cloudy
Tel Aviv	24	75	33	08	cloudy
Toronto	16	61	24	08	rain
Zurich	15	59	25	08	rain

Winning cards
The winning cards in yesterday's first Chance drawing (231/97) were the king of spades, the 10 of hearts, the 8 of diamonds and the 9 of clubs. In the second drawing (232/97) the winning cards were the 8 of spades, the 10 of hearts, the queen of diamonds and the ace of clubs.

Car importer nabbed for tax evasion

Rami Ungar, the general manager of Telcar, the importer of Daewoo and Daihatsu vehicles, was arrested yesterday on suspicion of tax evasion to the tune of NIS 70 million. He was released on bail and prevented from leaving the country for six months.

Customs investigators claim Telcar lowered the prices of the cars it imported, which are taxed at over 100 percent, and increased the price of the cars' air conditioners by the same amount.

Until 1993, air conditioners installed during the cars' assembly were tax exempt up to a value of \$700. However, due to pressure from local air conditioner manufacturers, in that year these items were included in the price of the car, and taxed accordingly.

Telcar imported some Daihatsu air conditioners separately from the cars, and bumped the price up for installation. With the Daewoos, certain facts regarding the real prices of the air conditioners were concealed from the authorities, it was claimed.

The investigators said Ungar confessed that car prices were lowered and an increase was levied on air conditioners. Ungar claimed this was done for tax purposes. He said those responsible for raising or lowering prices are the manufacturers. "I bring the car in the most attractive way possible onto the market," he said.

Customs has been conducting an undercover probe into Telcar for several months and an open investigation for the last two weeks, during which documents were confiscated and staffers were questioned.

Two weeks ago, a similar tax evasion case was exposed involving the importer of Mazda vehicles. (Itm)



Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon (right) and coalition and opposition MKs sit in Tichon's Knesset office yesterday and watch the video of last week's controversial votes on two Golan Heights bills. (Isaac Harari)

Tichon nixes revote on Golan Heights bills

By LIAT COLLINS

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon's ruling that there would be no revote on the Golan Heights bills from last week raised a storm in the plenum yesterday. The two bills, which came up for preliminary reading last Wednesday, were appealed. The Likud and Third Way had asked that Dan Meridor's vote be added to the vote on a bill by Yehuda Harel (Third Way), which called for a 61 MK majority and a public referendum to approve any territorial concessions. The bill failed in a 50-50 tie. The opposition appealed a bill by Eliezer Zandberg (Tsomet) which passed 40-43, and requires a majority of 80 MKs to approve any territorial concessions on the Golan Heights. The basis of the calls for a revote

were claims that Tichon had not allowed sufficient time between the votes to allow MKs to participate in the second one, and that Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi had announced the government opposed the bills although most ministers - including the premier - voted in favor of them.

"Each of us has our own outlook. The question is whether I acted according to Knesset House Rules and whether I'm allowed to change the votes once concluded," said Tichon, in a message in the plenum, following a review of the filmed footage of the votes together with coalition and opposition MKs.

"The Speaker can't change the results once they've appeared on the voting board," said Tichon. "The procedure was in order and according to the House Rules." He said no

matter what decision he made, someone would be critical of it. Meretz leader Yossi Sarid was the first to criticize Tichon in the plenum. The two had a "did-didn't-did-didn't" type of exchange after Tichon challenged Sarid saying: "You came into my office and said you sat in your place [for the second vote]. You didn't speak the truth."

Sarid responded: "You're not speaking the truth... Now I'm beginning to suspect there really was a plot whereas before I wanted to clear you of it."

Tichon: "You said you were sitting in your seat."

Sarid: "I didn't. I said no such thing."
Tichon: "You did."
Sarid: "Excuse me, I didn't say any such thing."
Tichon: "You did."

In a subsequent press conference on the decision, Labor whip Ra'anan Cohen accused Tichon of acting as Speaker for the coalition, not the Knesset.

Meretz whip Haim Oron said he hoped the incident was a slip-up rather than the sign of a new trend and warned: "The democratic regime in Israel is at risk."

He called the votes last week "scandalous" but said the opposition now had no choice but to continue to fight them through political means.

Moshe Shahal (Labor) explained a bill he has submitted with Sarid which would allow the Knesset to vote to remove a Speaker from the post, in the same way a minister can be removed.

Likud whip Meir Shehrit, in response, accused Shahal and Sarid of "chutzpa."

Swiss files found in shredding room may have Jewish link

ZURICH (AP) - Switzerland's largest bank confirmed yesterday that documents discovered in its shredder room by a night watchman may have been related to property sold by Jews under the Nazis.

The Union Bank of Switzerland had previously maintained that the documents salvaged by the guard, Christoph Meili, were unrelated to dormant accounts of Holocaust victims.

Some of the documents were relevant to the research of an international panel of historians investigating Switzerland's dealings

with the Nazis, the panel's secretary, Linus von Castellmuller, told the Associated Press today. He declined to elaborate.

Since Jews were under Nazi pressure to sell their property in Germany at prices well below market values, the mortgages for a 1937 sale of property, possibly by Jews, could well come under the scope of the commission's work. Documents related to the sale were in the shredder room.

Meili, who lost his job over the incident and is under investigation for breaking Switzerland's bank-

ing secrecy rules, has fled to the United States with his wife and two children because he said he felt their lives were in danger. Congress has moved to give them permanent residence status.

The bank has admitted that the documents' destruction violated a law requiring preservation of any evidence that might relate to investigations into the World War II era.

Jewish groups have criticized Swiss banks for not being forthright in revealing records of Jewish gold and assets that disappeared in Switzerland following the war.

Suspected old Nazi account holds five Swiss francs

ZURICH (Reuters) - Switzerland's fourth-largest bank said yesterday that an old account that might have been opened by a prominent Nazi contained only five Swiss francs (\$3.30).

Zurich Kantonalbank (ZKB) also said it had given away to charity the contents of accounts that remained dormant for 20 years, totalling SFr 580,000 over the years.

ZKB, which serves the city and canton of Zurich, said it had not finished a detailed examination of two accounts with potential Nazi links made public in the list of dormant pre-1945 accounts published by Swiss banks last week.

"There are five francs in an account under the name of Willi Bauer," said Fritz Treichler, chief of staff to ZKB president Paul Hasenfratz.

The discovery came after Jewish groups identified at least six names matching those of once-prominent Nazis on the list of nearly 1,800 Swiss accounts opened by foreigners before the end of World War II in 1945.

Treichler said his bank had two of these names on its rolls, Willi Bauer and Elise Eder. Nazi-hunters said Bauer was an alias used by Anton Burger, an Eichmann aide and deputy commandant of the Theresienstadt concentration camp. Elisabeth Eder was the wife of Ernst Kaltenbrunner, the head of the SD, the Nazis' intelligence arm.

The Bauer account contained five francs, Treichler said. He was not able to say exactly when it had been opened.

The Eder account, in the name of Elise rather than Elisabeth, might be a case of mistaken identity, he added.

The reports said Elise Eder was the wife of Nazi official Ernst Kaltenbrunner and there is nothing in our records to reflect this," he said.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles last week told Swiss banks six names on the accounts list might be former members of Hitler's elite. The other four were Hermann Esser, Hermann Schmitz, Heinrich Hoffman, and Karl Jager.

Matza demands PM end psychologists' strike

By JUDY SIEGEL and LIAT COLLINS

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza demanded yesterday that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu personally intervene to end the strike by public-sector psychologists. He also wrote to Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman, calling on him to grant the striking professionals advance payments until the pay issue is finally resolved.

Ministry sources said that Matza, who recognizes the daily deterioration of patients who cannot afford private psycholo-

gists and the mounting toll of suicides, will put his foot down over the issue. The psychologists, the most poorly paid of any professionals in the public service, have been on strike for some 70 days.

The Treasury has refused to negotiate until the strike ends, but the psychologists, who can afford to work only half time and freelance at other jobs the rest of the time, feel they have little to lose.

If Ne'eman agrees to make advance payments, Matza believes the strike can be brought quickly to an end, the

health minister said. One of the stumbling blocks to a settlement is that the psychologists, who work for the Health Ministry and Kupat Holim Clalit, are linked to tens of thousands of humanities and social science graduates in the public sector. Unless this linkage is severed - and the psychologists would be reluctant to stand alone - significant pay rises for psychologists would affect other academics as well.

A caucus of 11 MKs from all parties is demanding that Ne'eman meet immediately with striking psychologists. In a letter sent to the minister, the parliamentarians said there are precedents for meeting with workers before a strike has ended and that, in this case, it should be done for the sake of the psychologists' clients, some of whom could suffer irreparable harm if the strike continues.

The MKs met yesterday at the initiative of Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism). The letter was signed by MKs from Shas, Meretz, The Third Way, National Religious Party, Labor, Moledezt, Hadash, Likud, Democratic Arab Party, and Yisrael Ba'aliya.

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